

**Series:**  
**Early Modern Embroidery and Lace Pattern Books**



**Developed by Helen Hough**

**James G. Collins & Associates**  
**2019**

Hough, Helen

*In the Style of Domenico da Sera*

James G. Collins & Associates, Arlington, Texas, 2019

Series: Early Modern Embroidery and Lace Pattern Books

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# In the Style of Domenico da Sera

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## Introduction

Domenico da Sera is rather interesting for a creator of books in his time, the first half of the 1500s. As far as we know, he was born in Toulouse, a city which is now in France, under the name Dominique Celle, but was reported to have traveled to Spain and various cities now in Italy. His designs were published from at least 1531 (perhaps as early as 1515) in in Lyon and later in Venice by Pagano. As late as the 1580s, many of the designs were published again by printers in Paris. Given the complications of travel in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, these experiences are notably unique for a scholar, artist, designer, book creator. Some readers may be able to perceive a variety of cultural influences in his work by examining in the handful of embroidery and lace pattern books mentioned here.

The focus of this book, though, is an anonymous publication, *Livre de modèles pour broderie et tapisserie*, in the collections of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF). The book is composed of 41 pages of woodcut designs for embroidery or guides for tapestry and owned in the 1700 by the duc La Vallière. There is no title page nor any print or written device that can provide clues to its origins. As a result of the lack of textual identifying information within the book, the BNF can only provide a descriptive title and an approximate time frame of its creation, the 1500s. The National Library of France uses a title derived from the title in the Duke's 1783 library catalog, *Livre de figures ponctuées, contenant plusieurs desseins pour apprendre à marquer le linge, à faire de la broderie & et de la tapisserie*, or roughly translated into English, *Book of charted figures, containing several designs to learn to mark linen, to do embroidery & tapestry*.

The images in *Livre de modèles...* are woodcuts, the paper of a time appropriate for these woodcuts, and the designs very, very similar to the work of Sera. Thumbnails images and references to Sera's greater body of work are provided here so any person interested in the comparisons can personally investigate the overt similarities and differences. I propose that the repeat designs in the anonymous book are early works by Sera or inspired by his early patterns. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, charted designs in pattern books progressed from regular to complex geometric forms and then to elaborate designs that wove in images of plants and animals. The repeats in *Livre de modèles...* are relatively simple geometric embroidery designs that are most like those printed in the earlier part of the century.

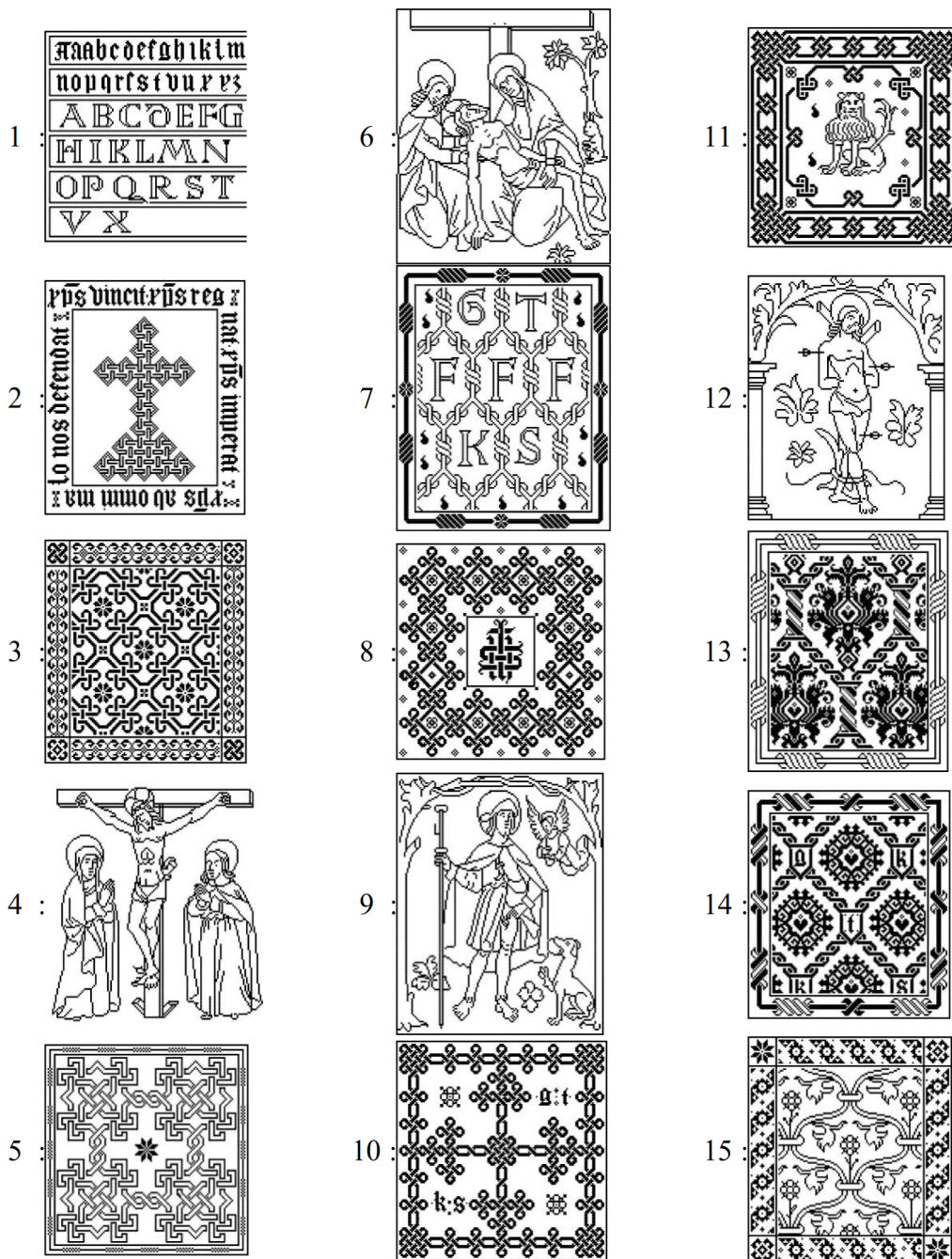
*Livre de modèles...* includes both repeat designs and patterns with human forms posed in religious or mythological settings. There are also a few plates with mythological creatures, for example, a cockatrice. The embroidery images similar but not identical to Sera's known works and are obviously not printed from the same plates. The other known works by Sera do not have human forms so those plates may or may not have devised by him and may be an inclusion from another gifted designer. Still, with some knowledge of 16<sup>th</sup> century embroidery pattern books and familiarity with Sesa's contributions, it can be easy call this volume in France, "**In the Style of Domenico da Sera**".

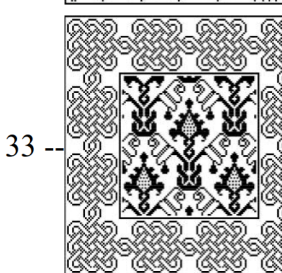
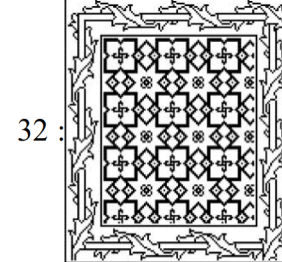
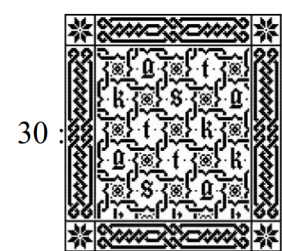
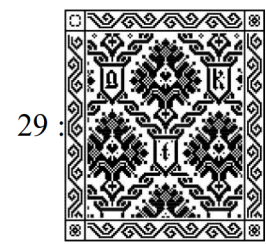
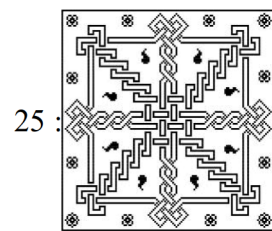
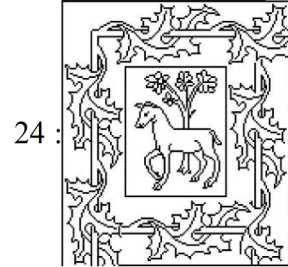
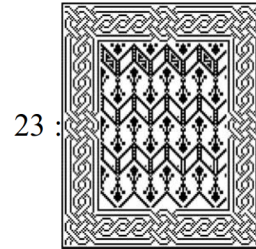
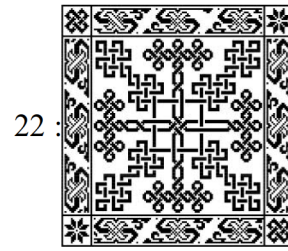
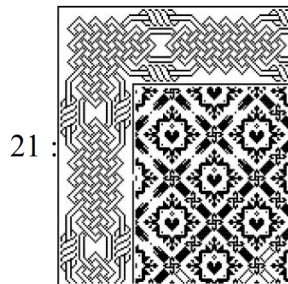
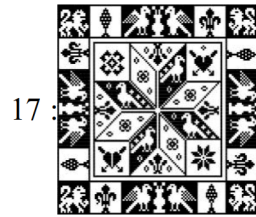
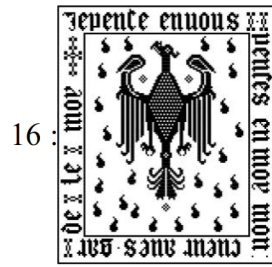
[*Livre de modèles pour broderie et tapisserie*]. [no place of publication: no publisher]. [1500s].

References: Courboin, 2021; Crapelet, 1822, tome III, p. 79; Vallière, 2148

Library: Bibliothèque nationale de France, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b10548024n>









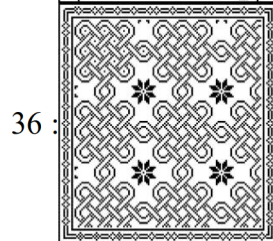
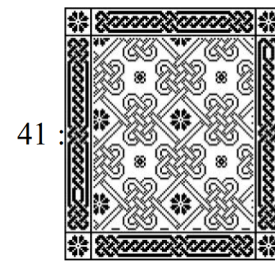
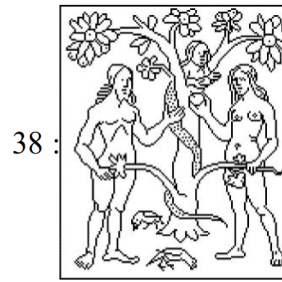
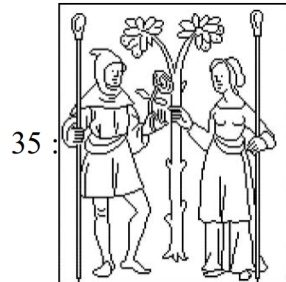
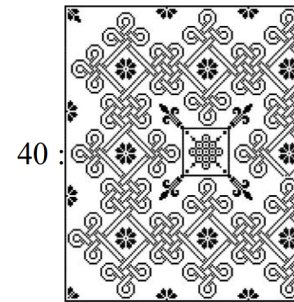
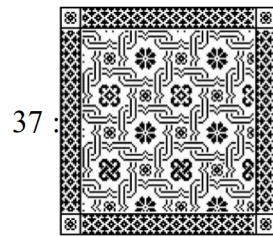




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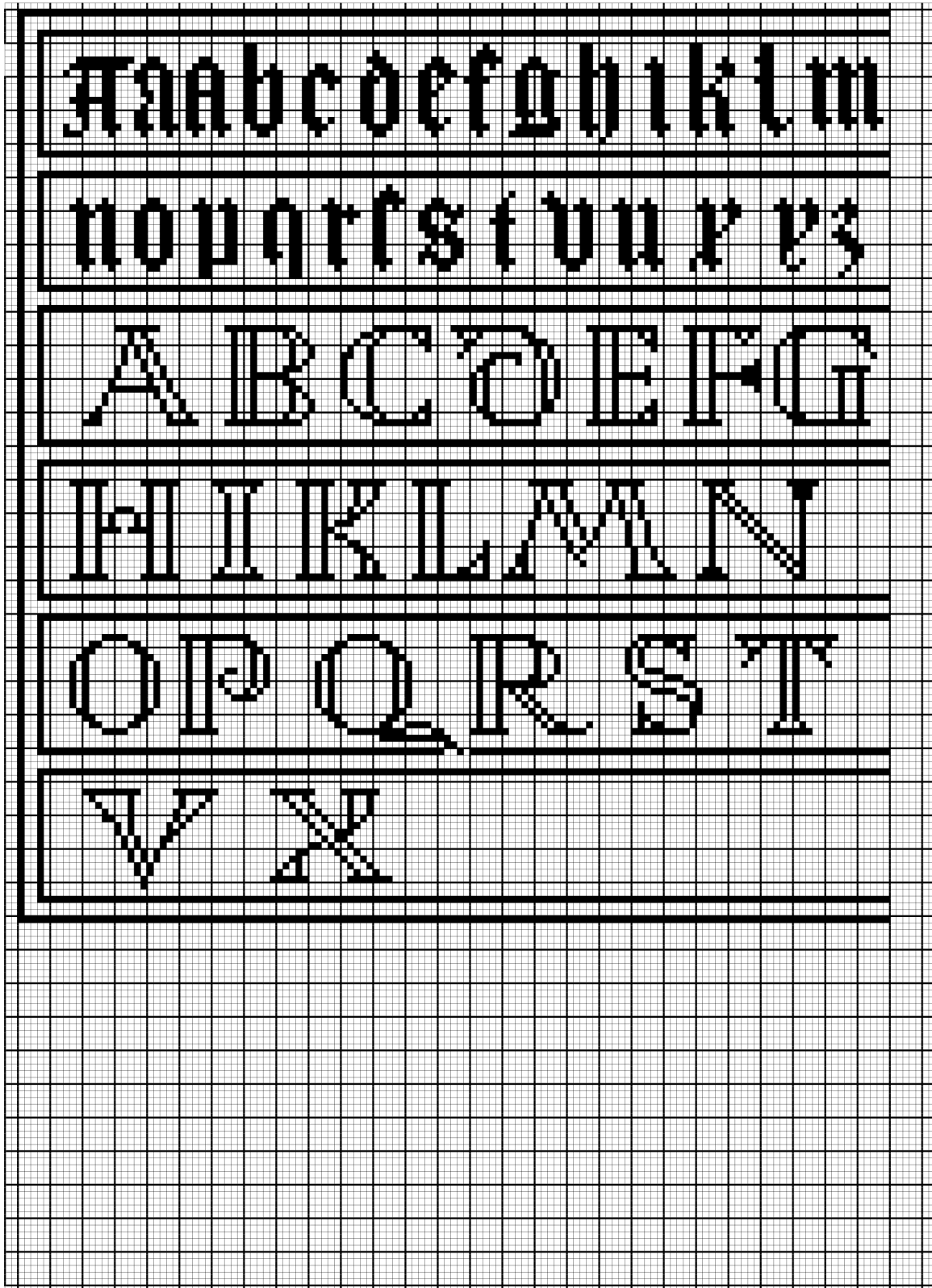


Plate 2



Plate 3

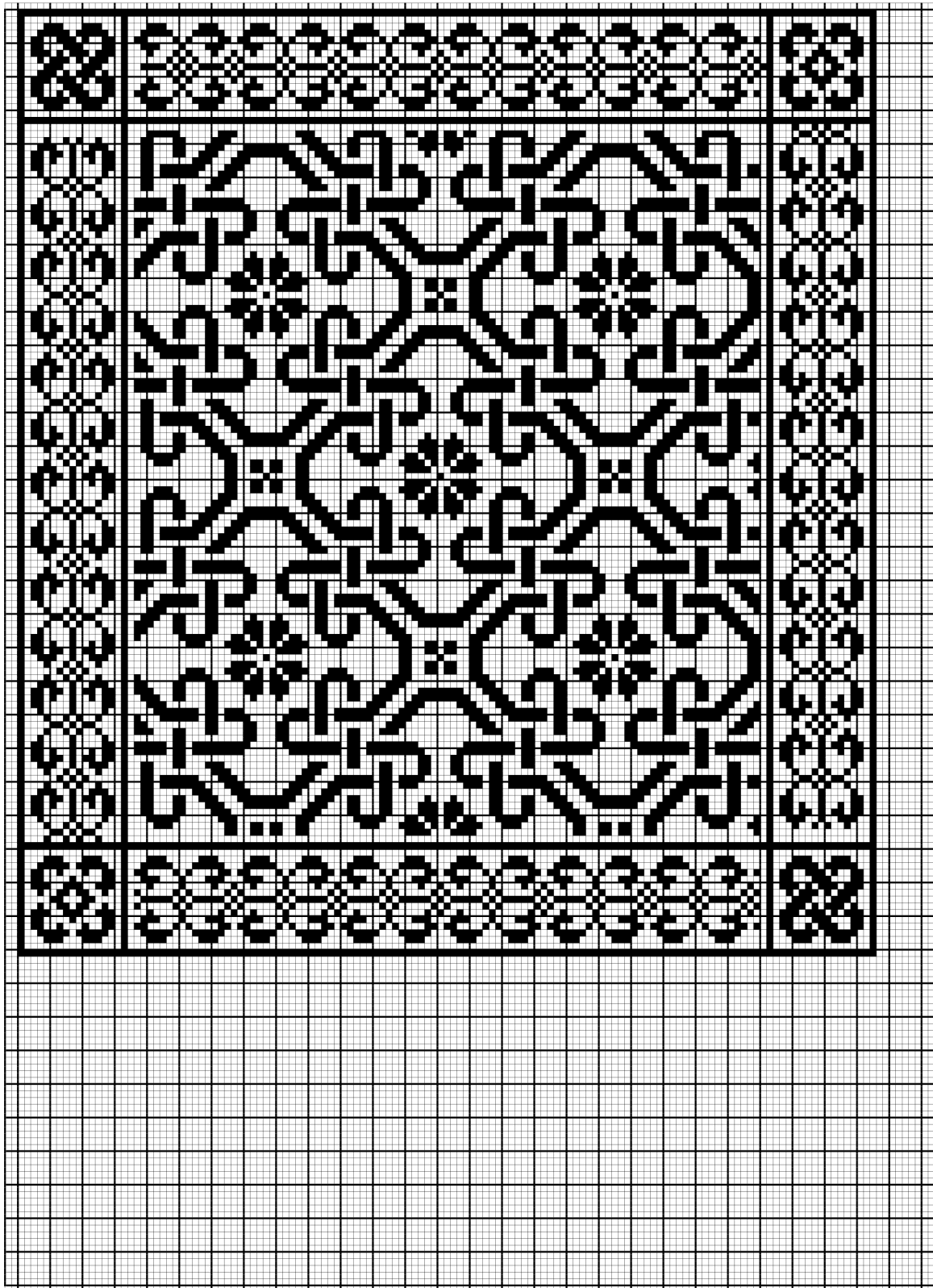


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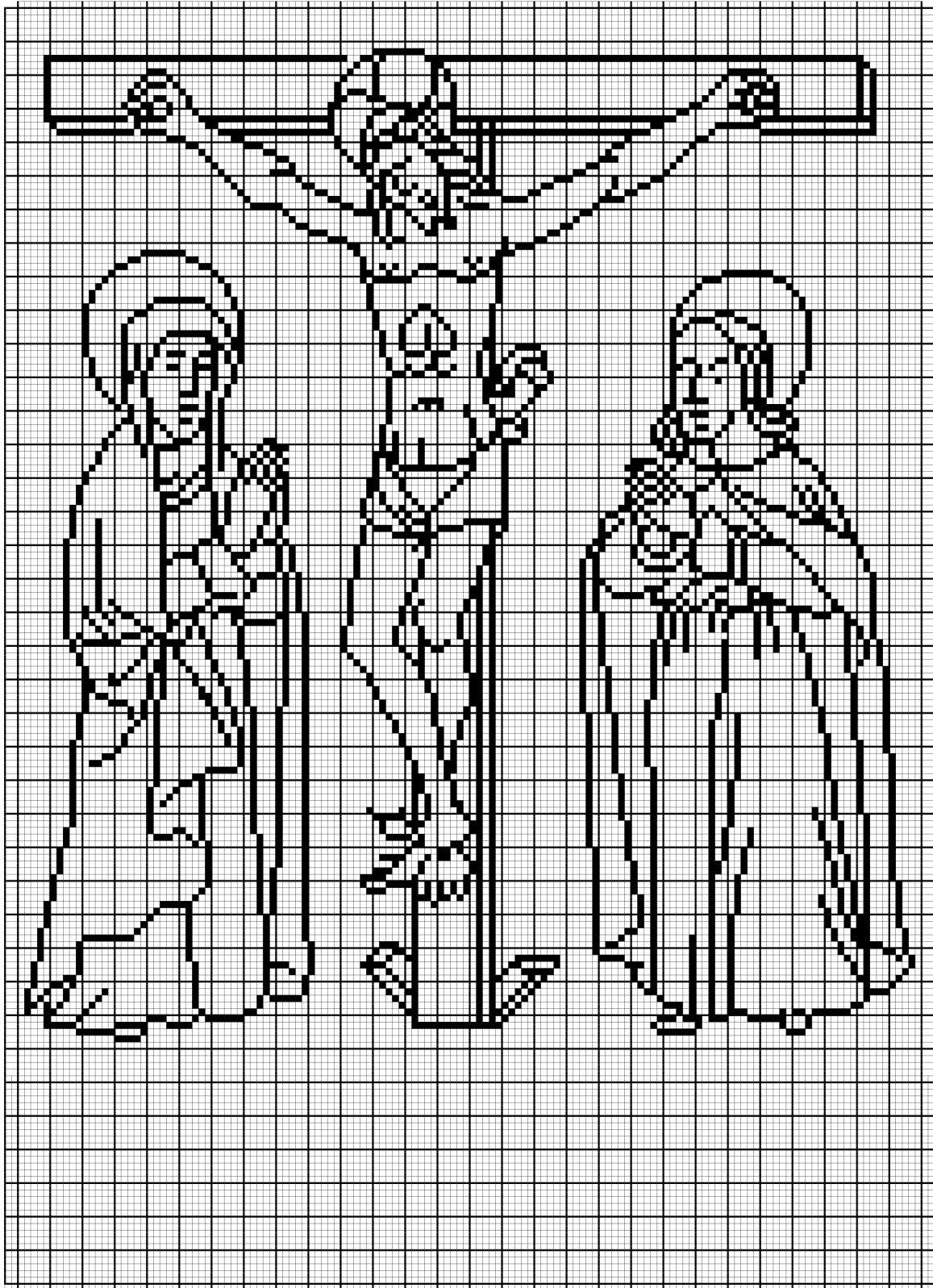


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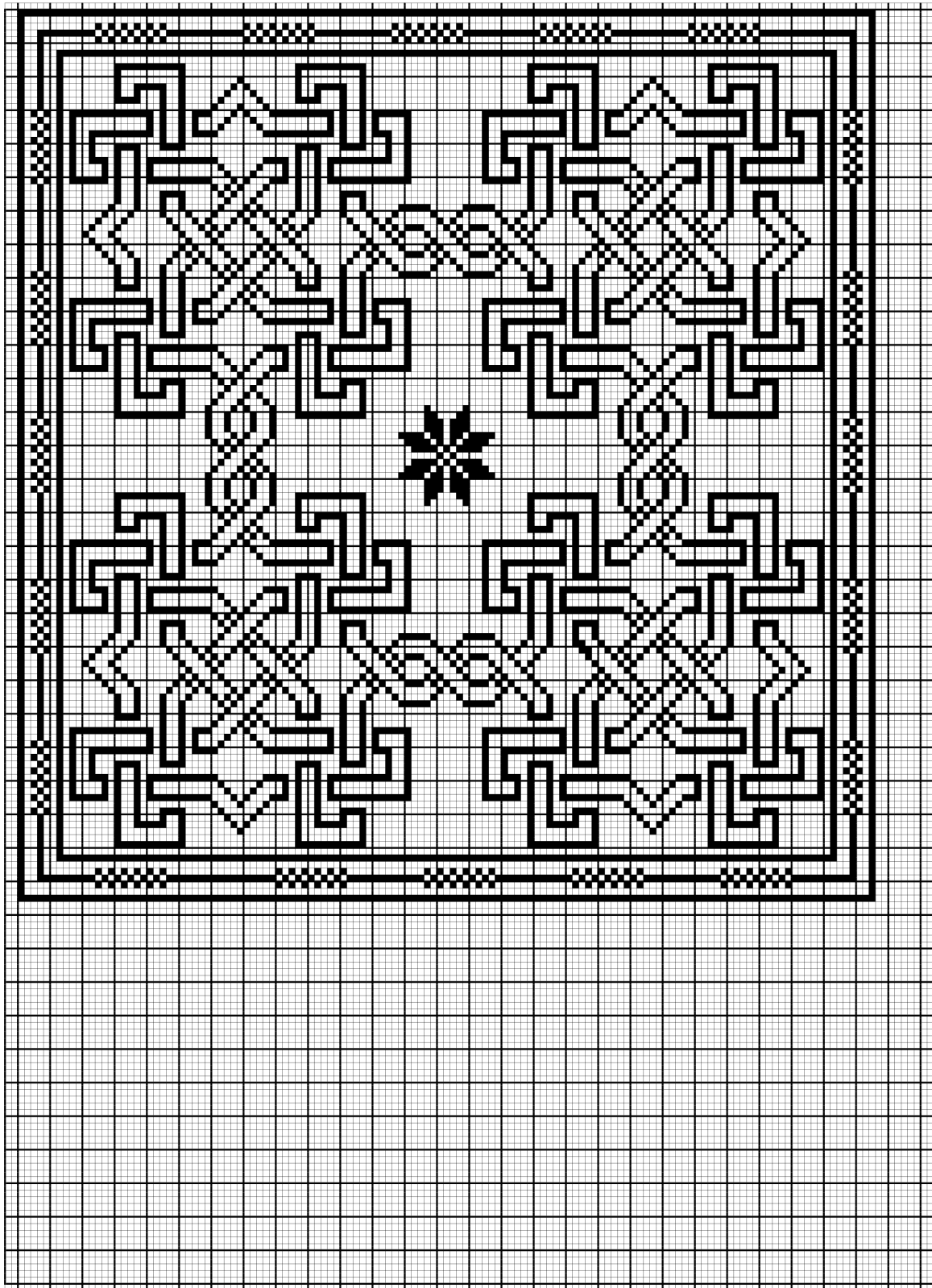




Plate 6





Plate 7

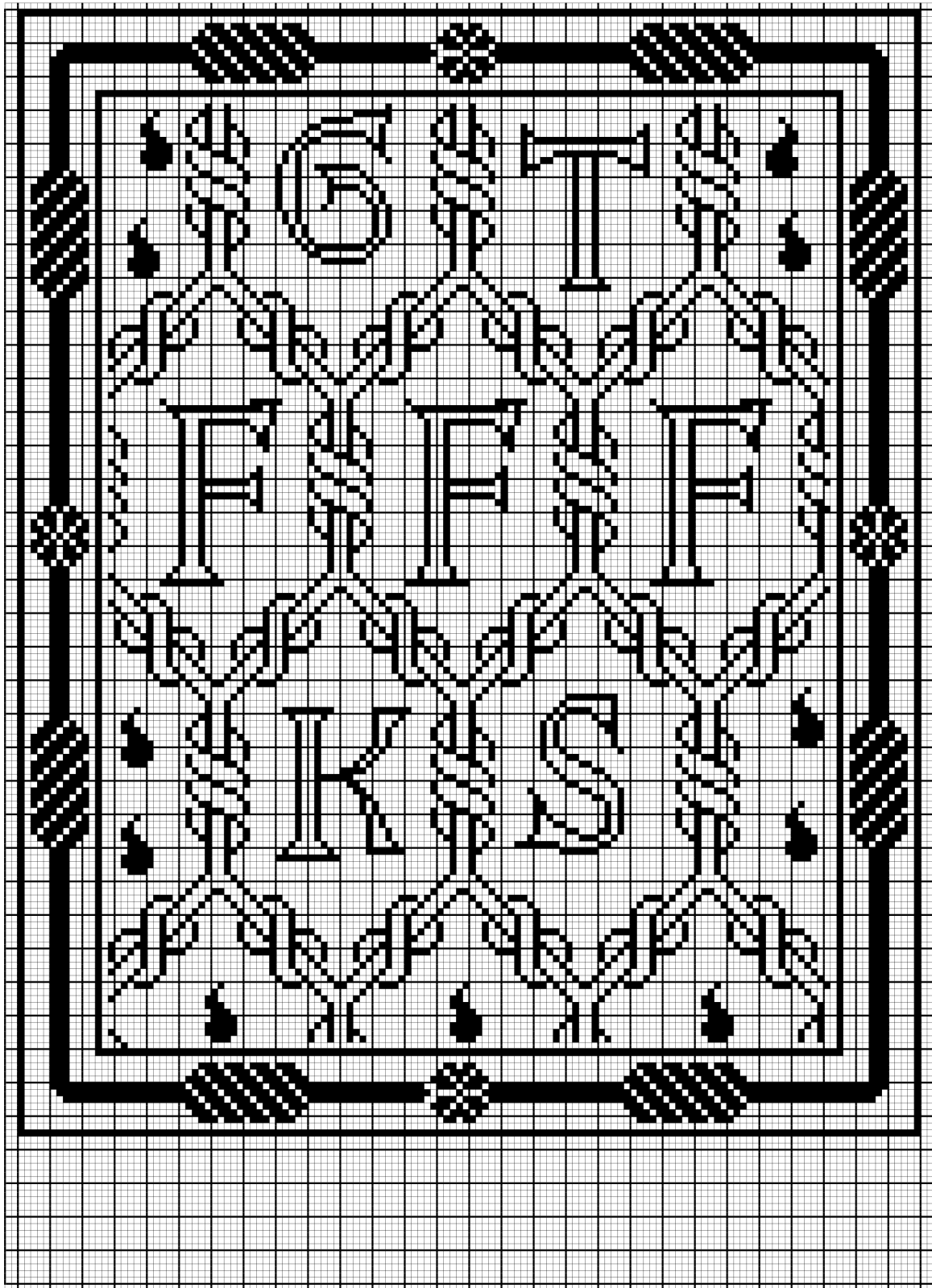


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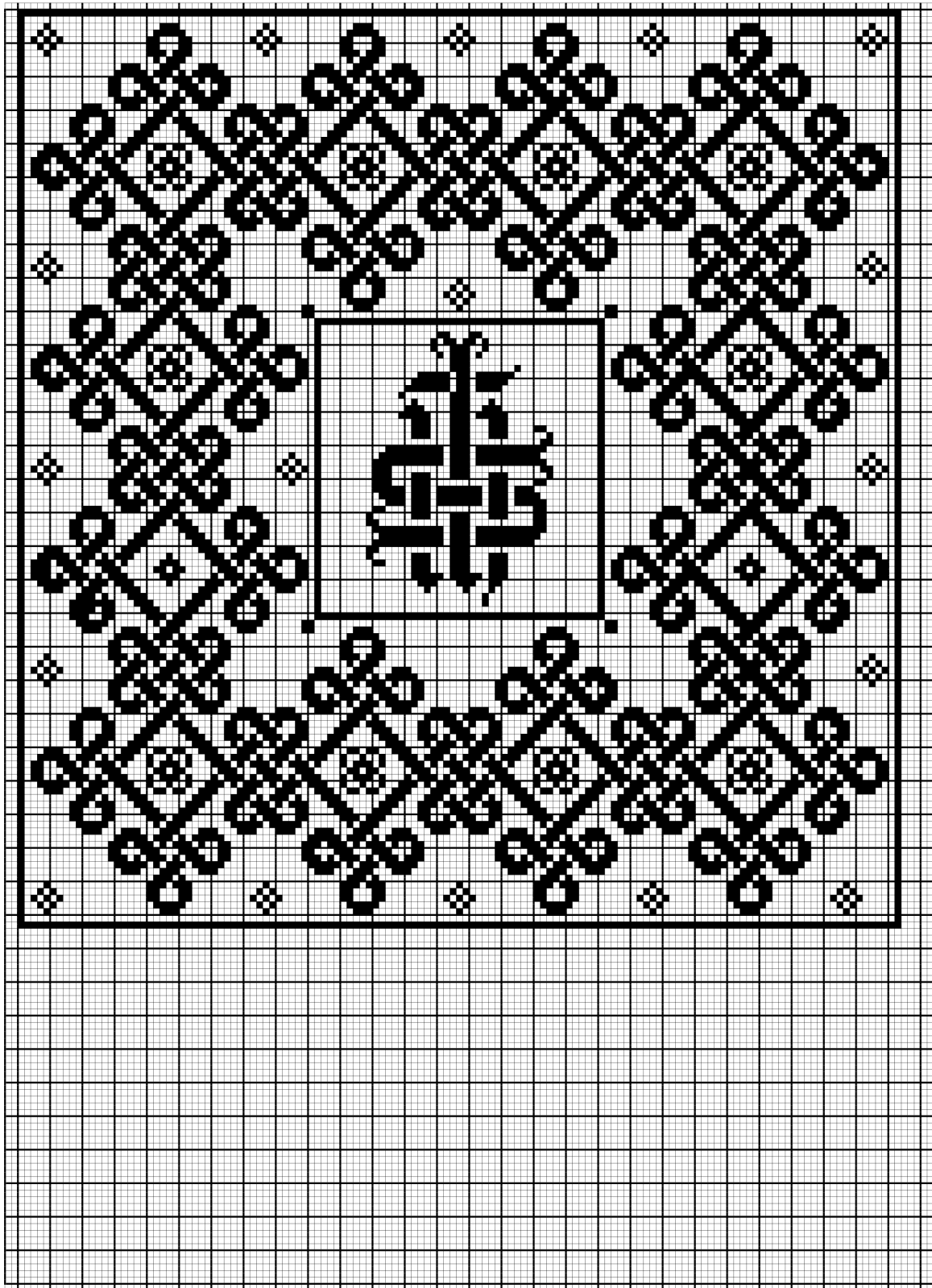


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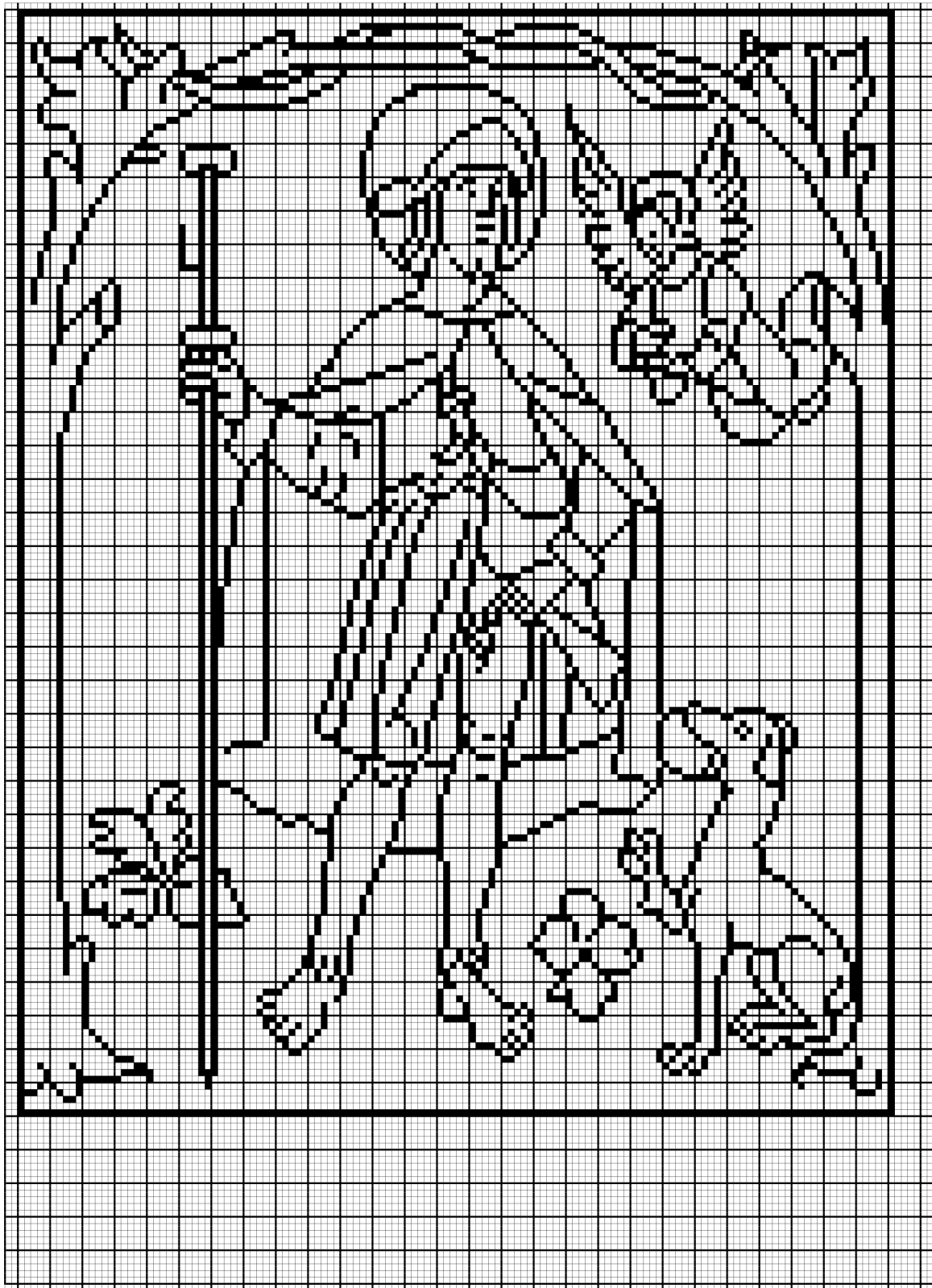


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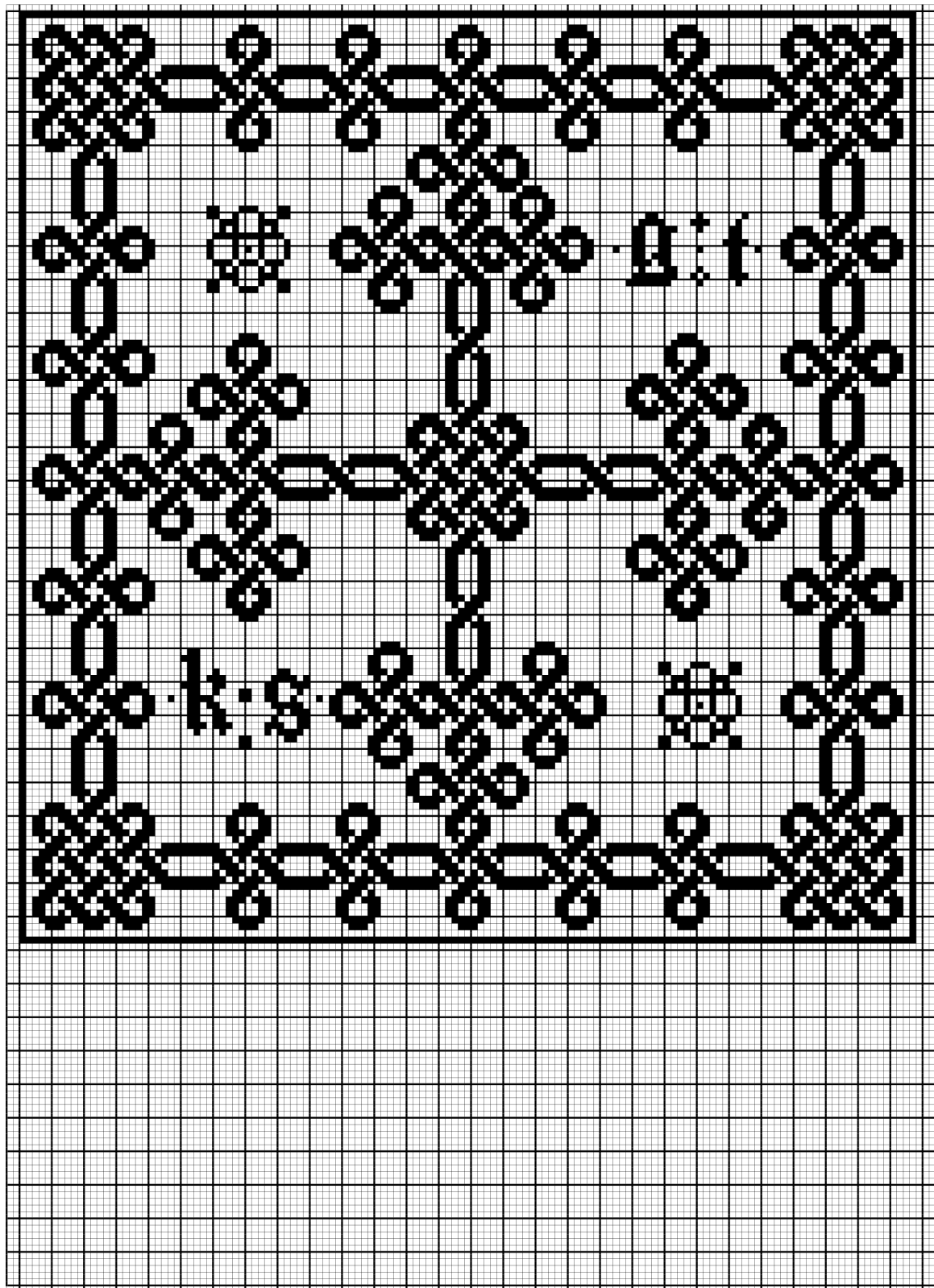


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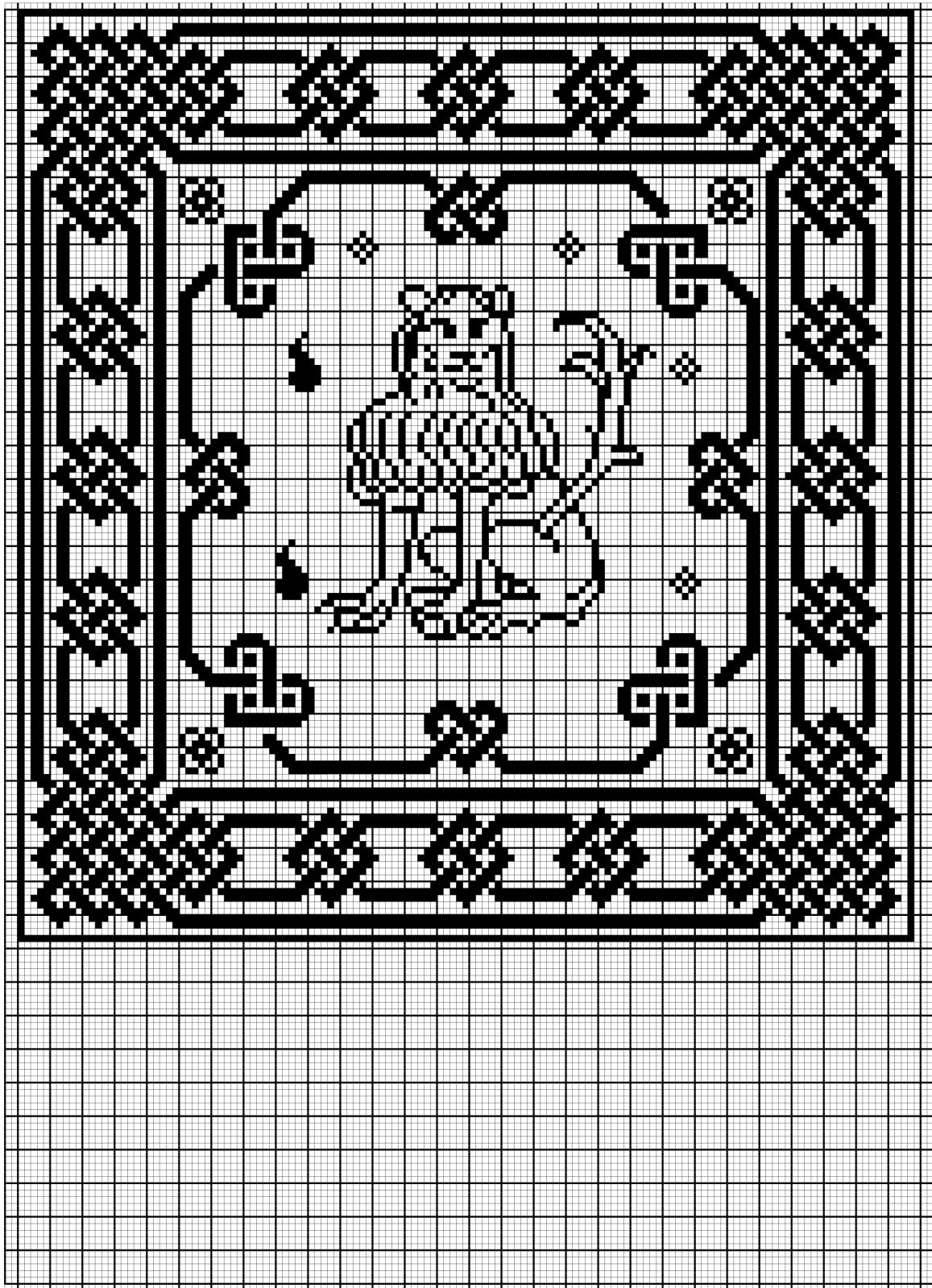


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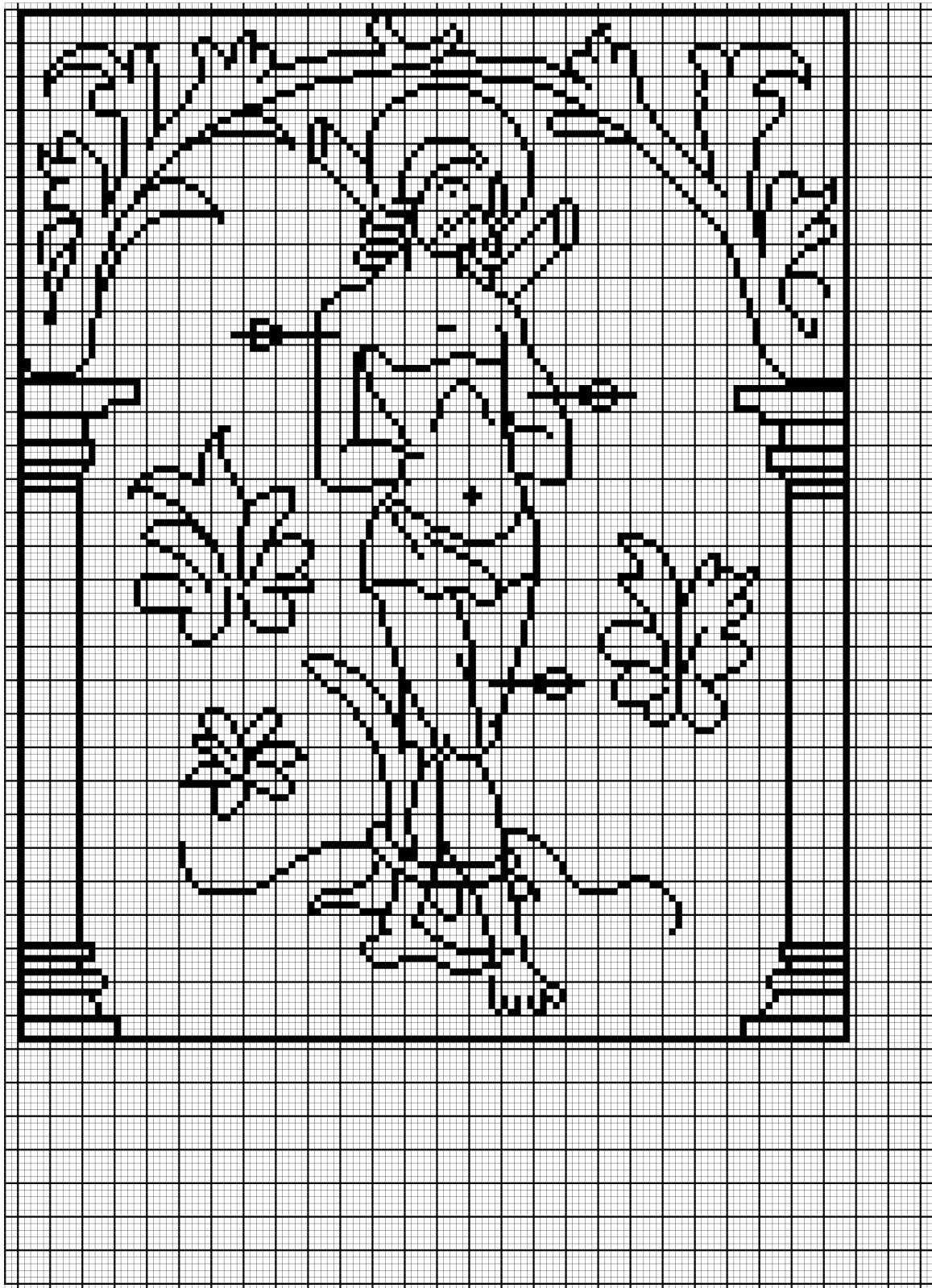




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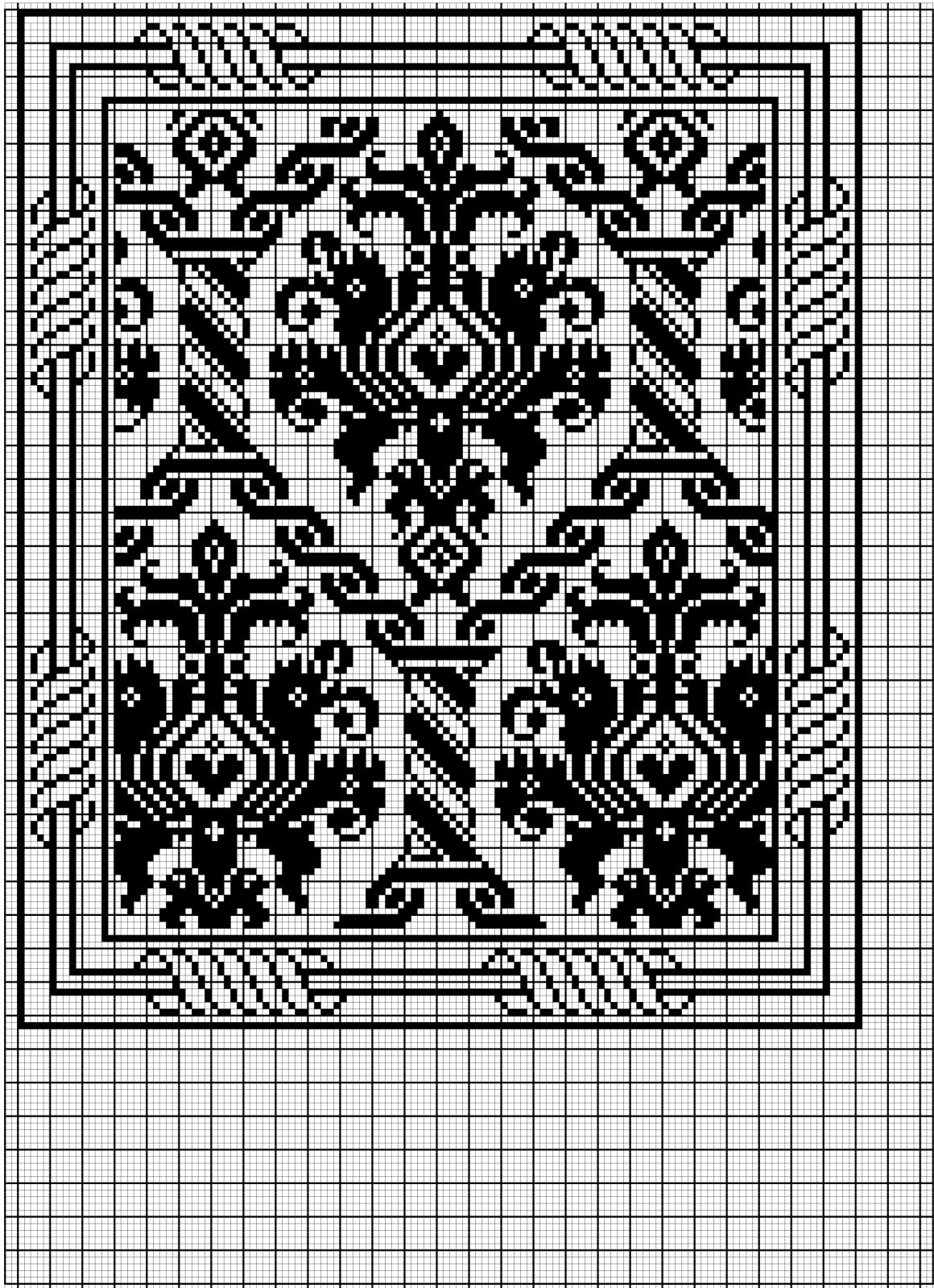


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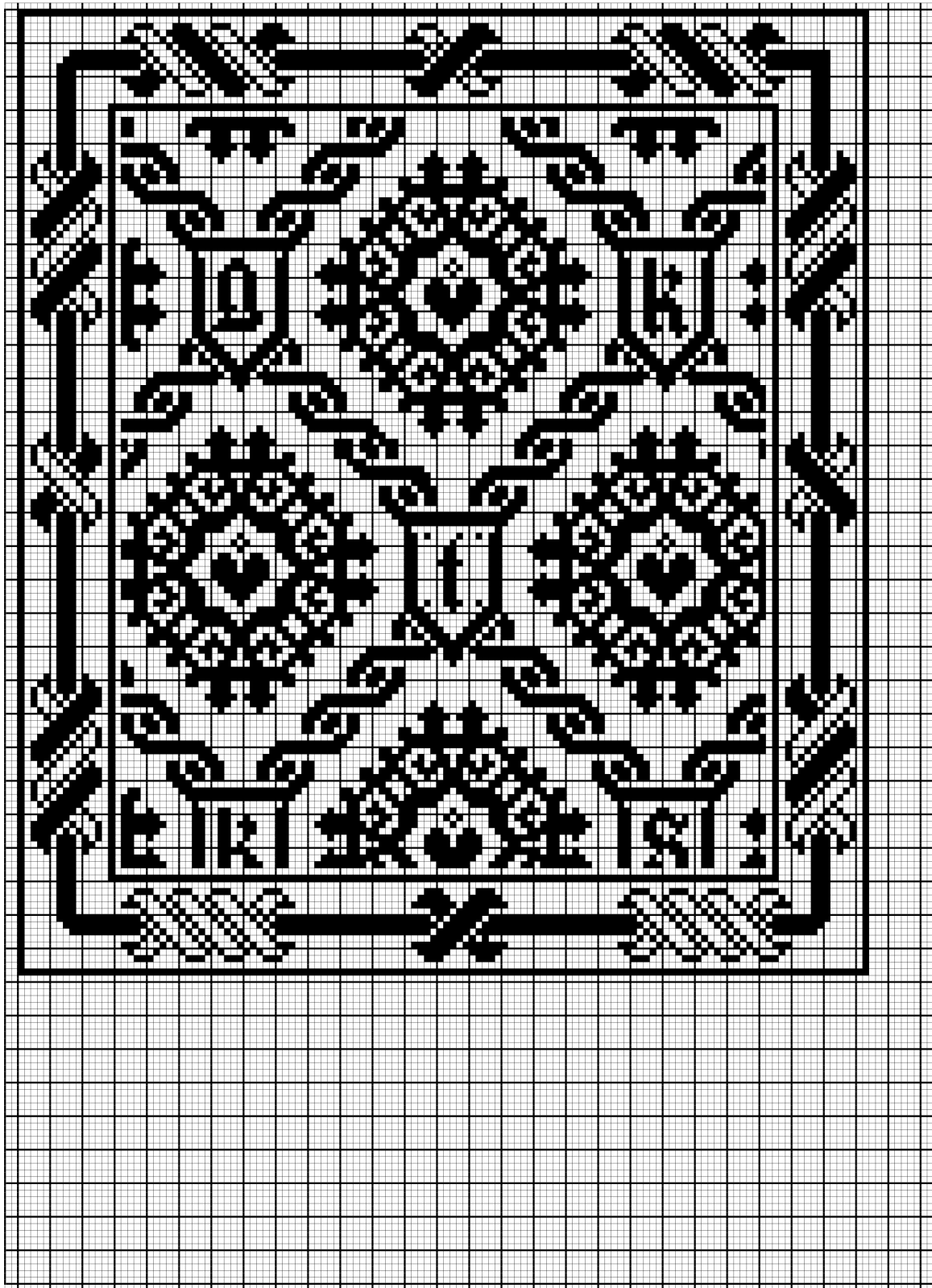




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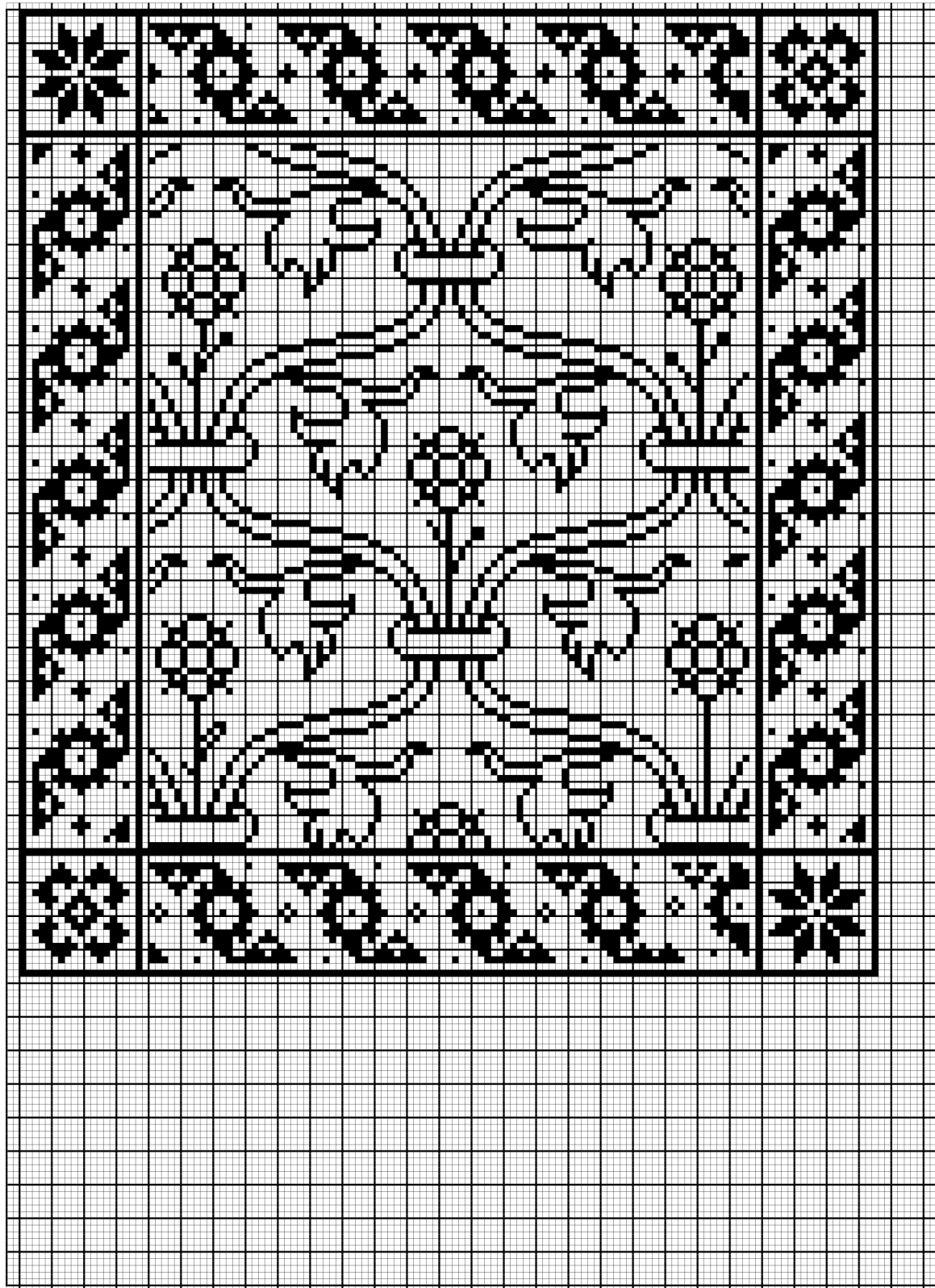


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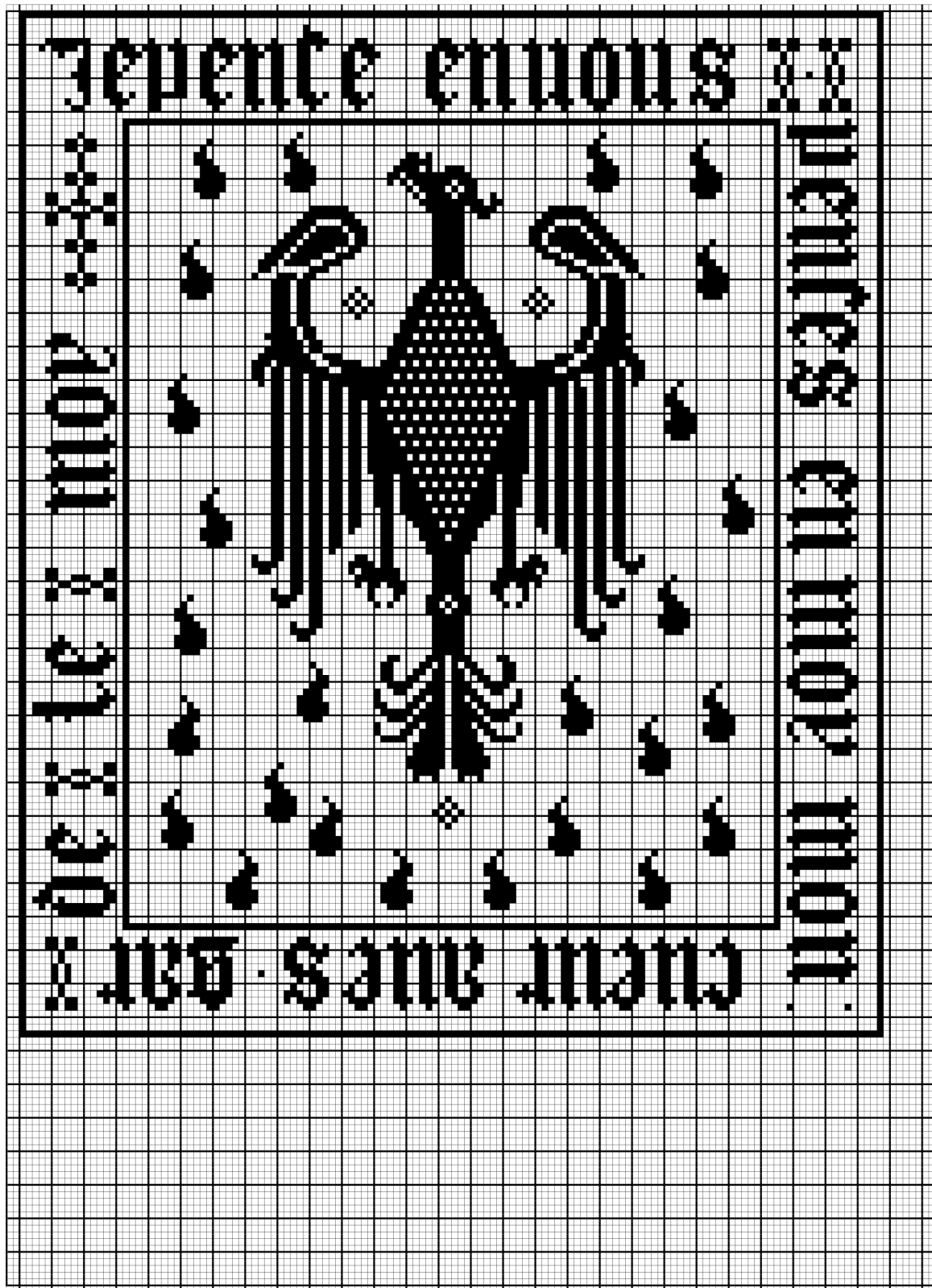


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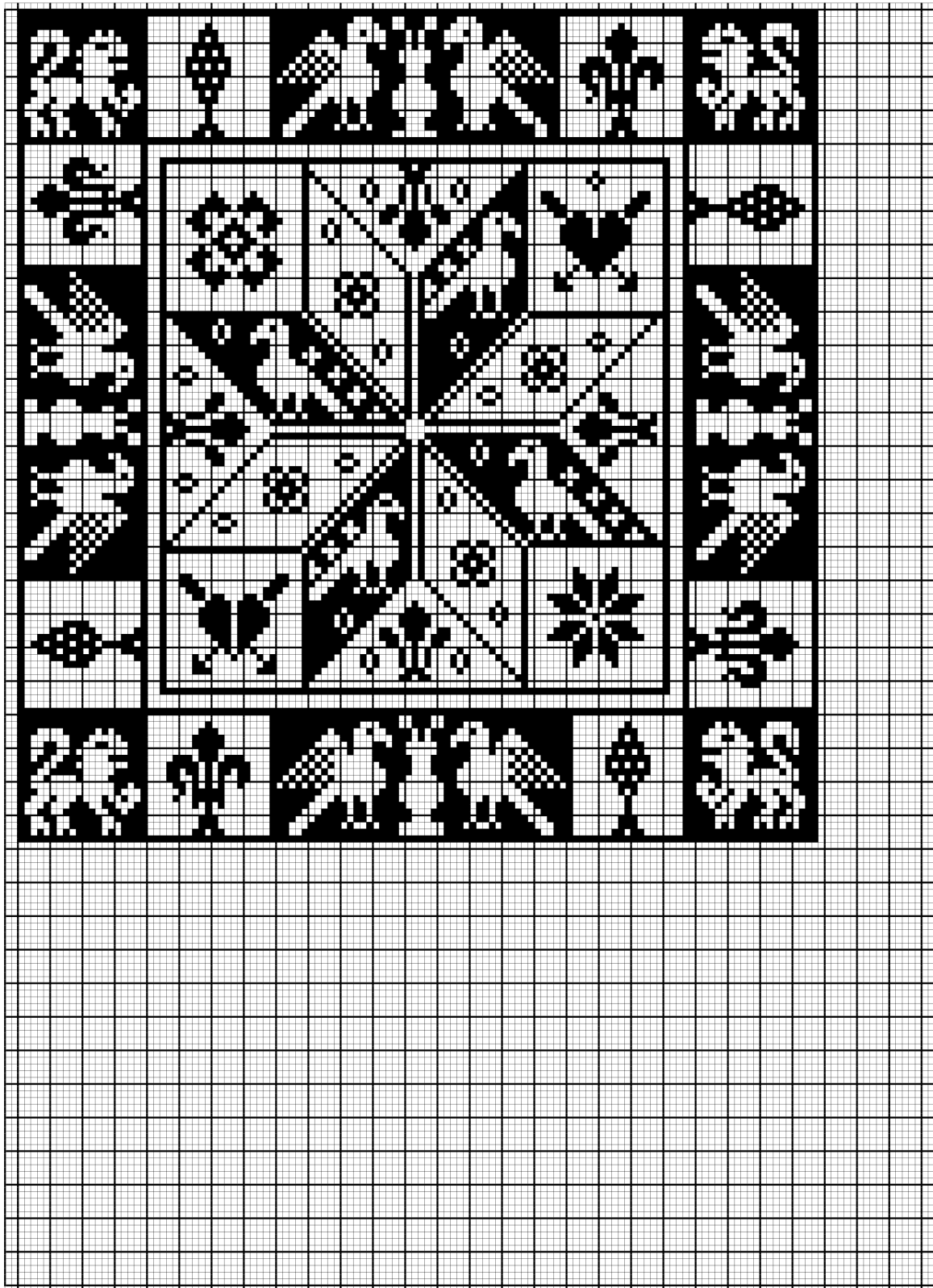


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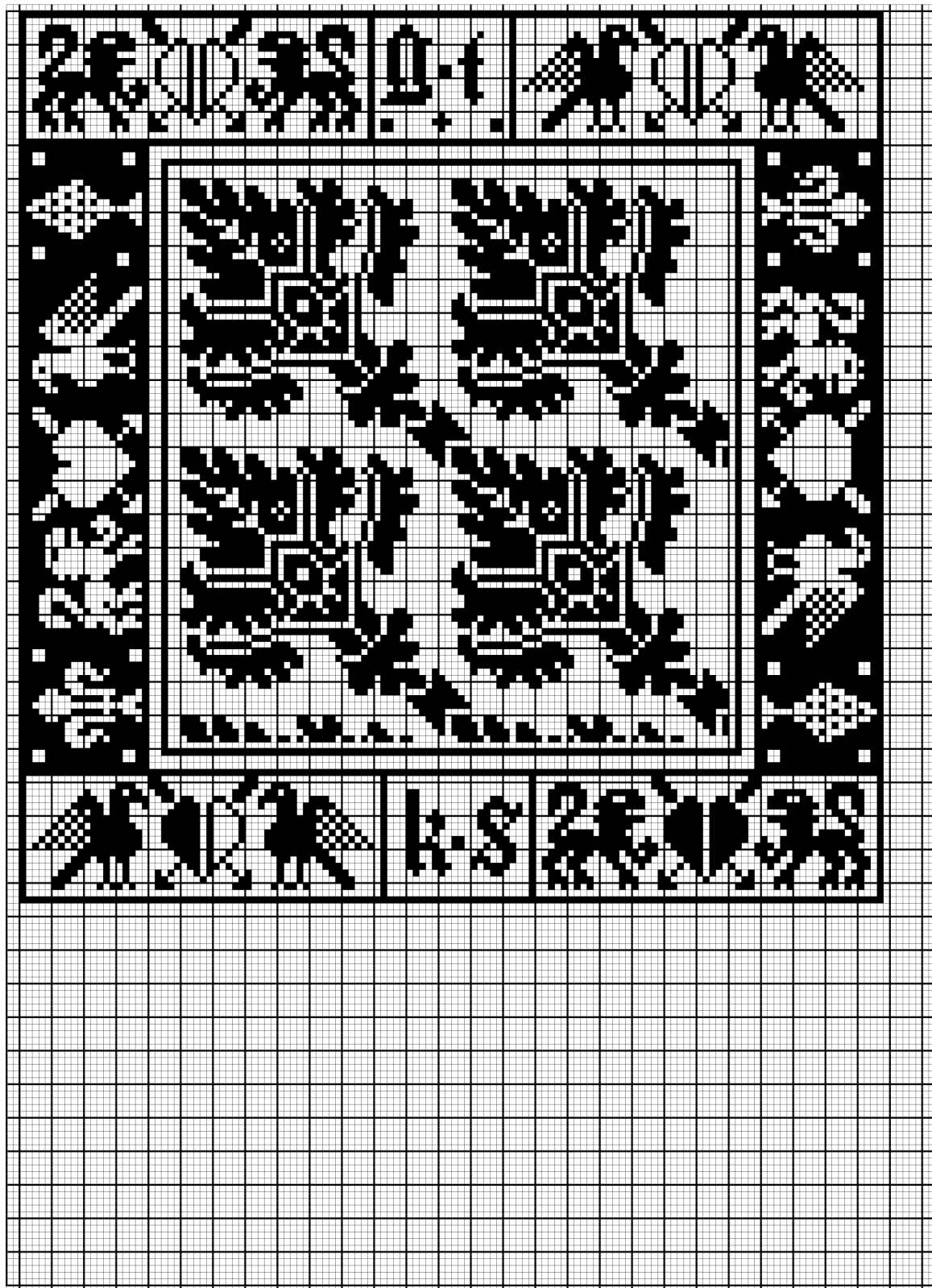


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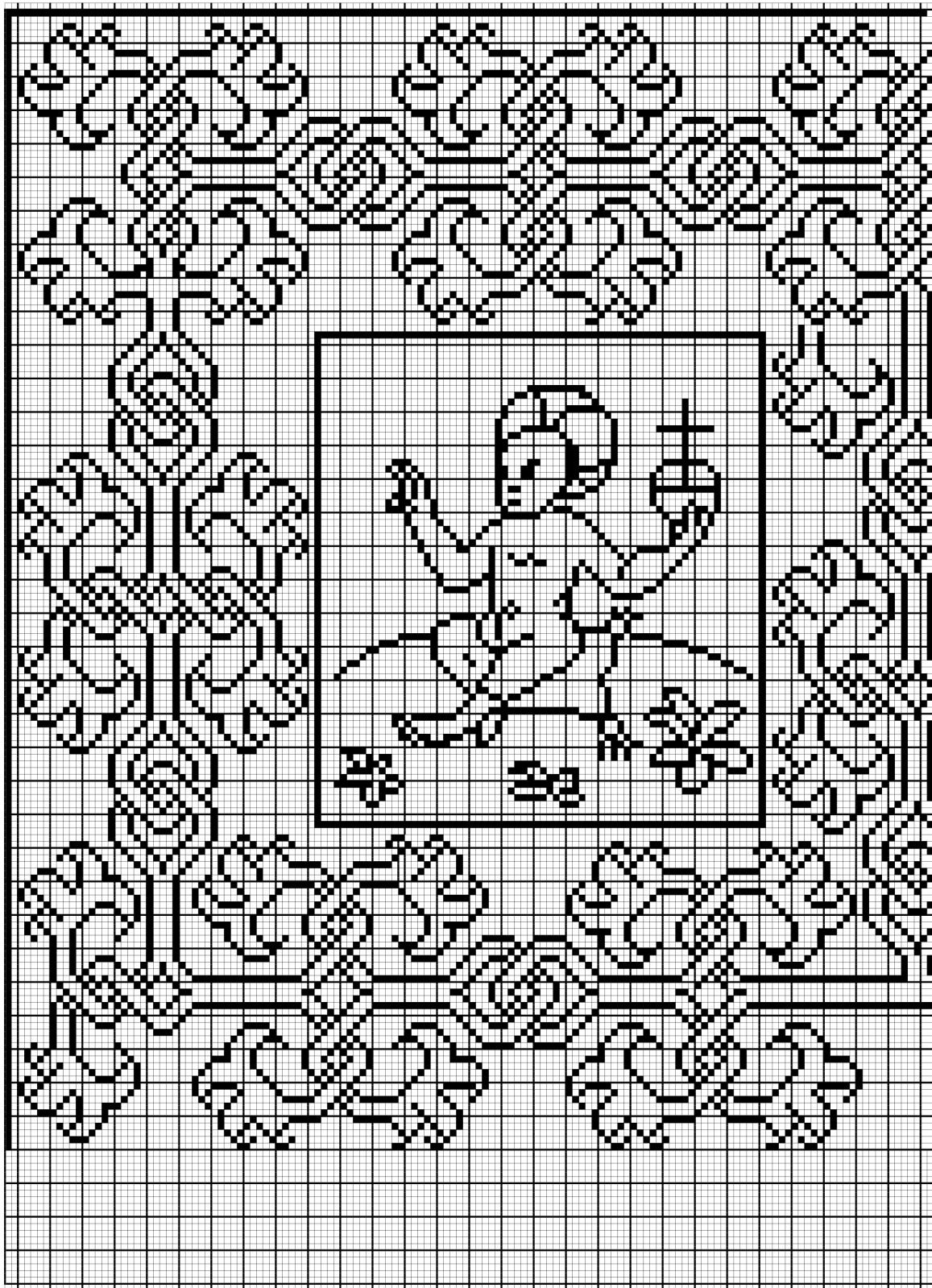


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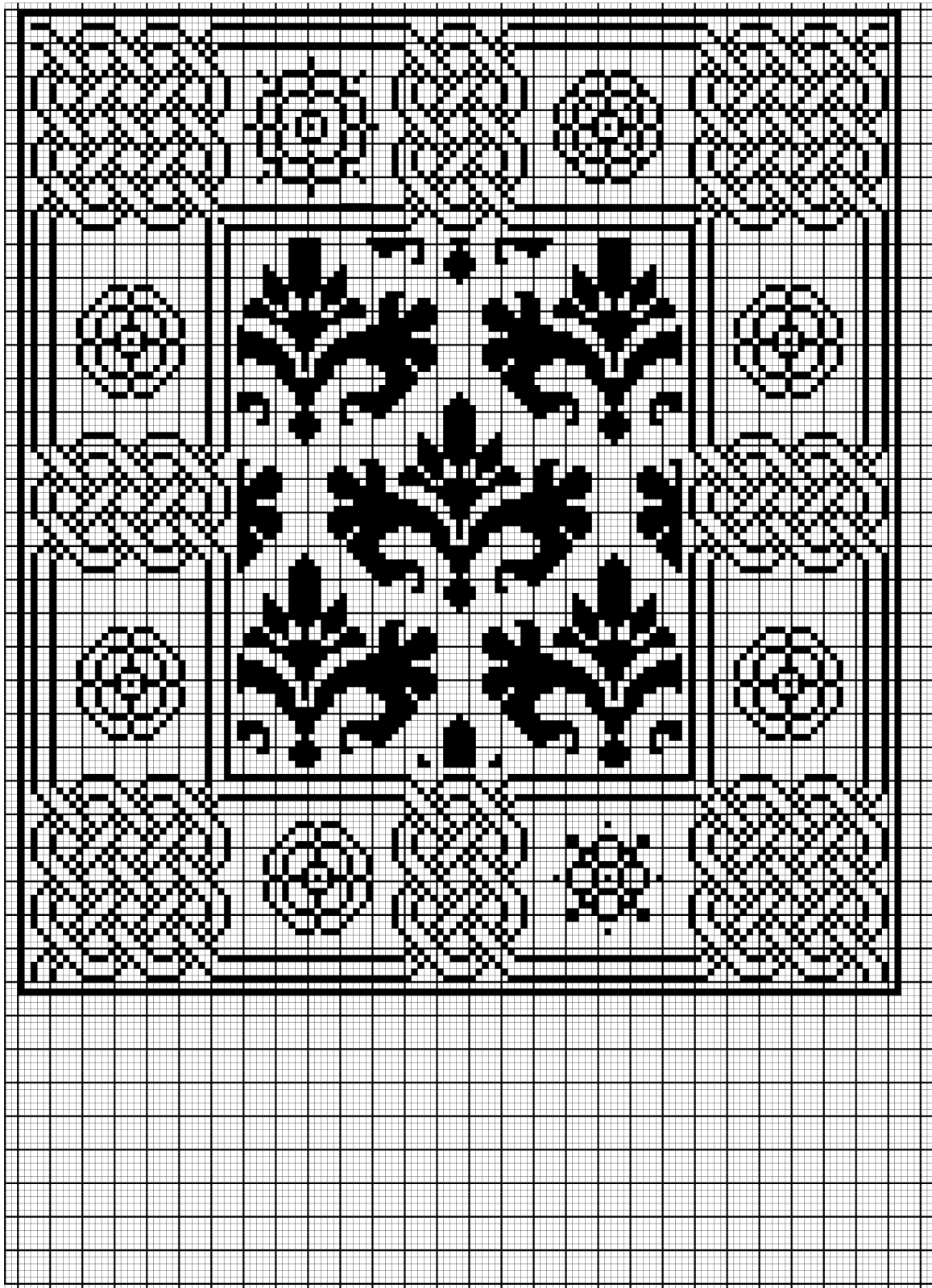




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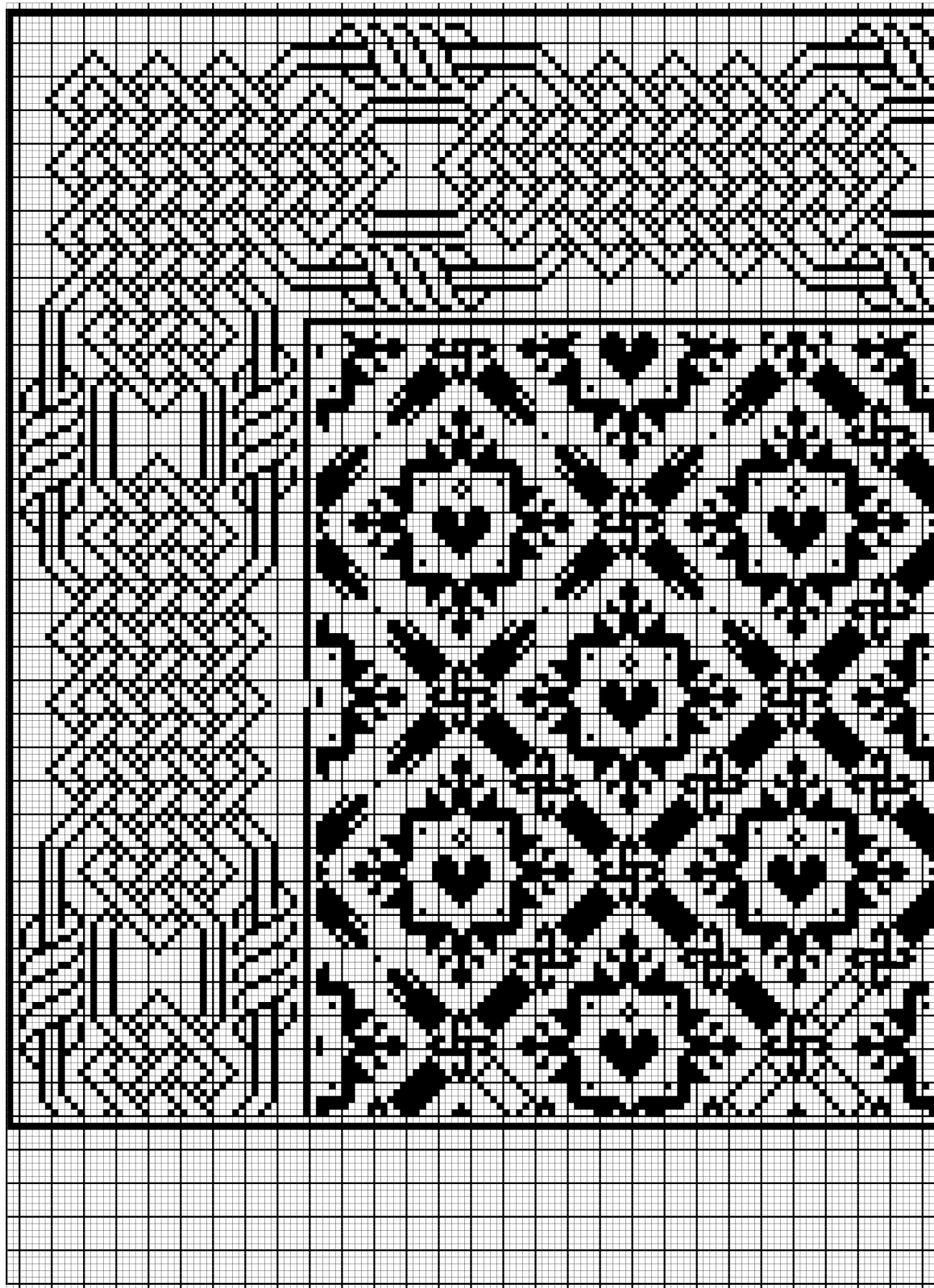


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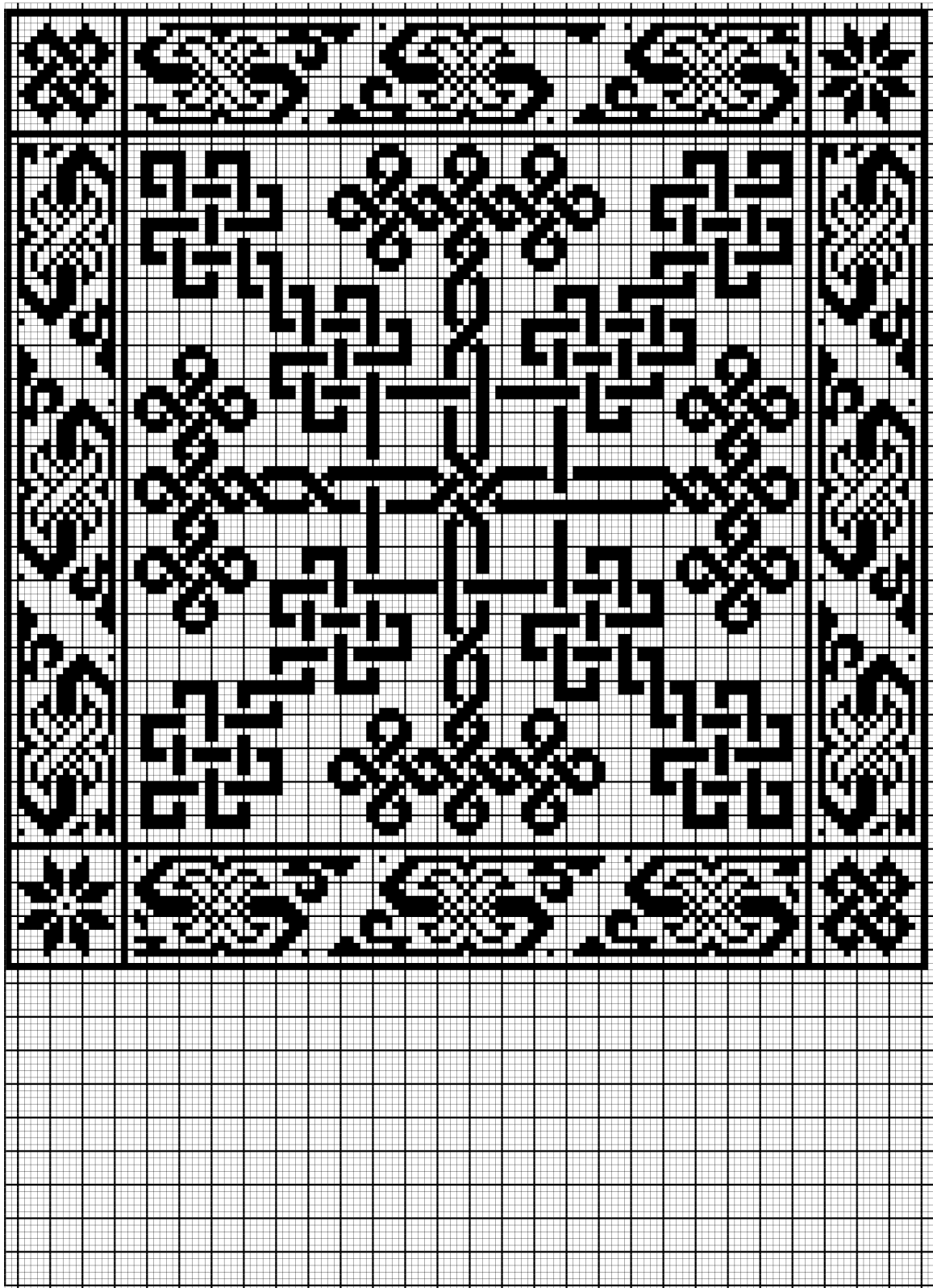




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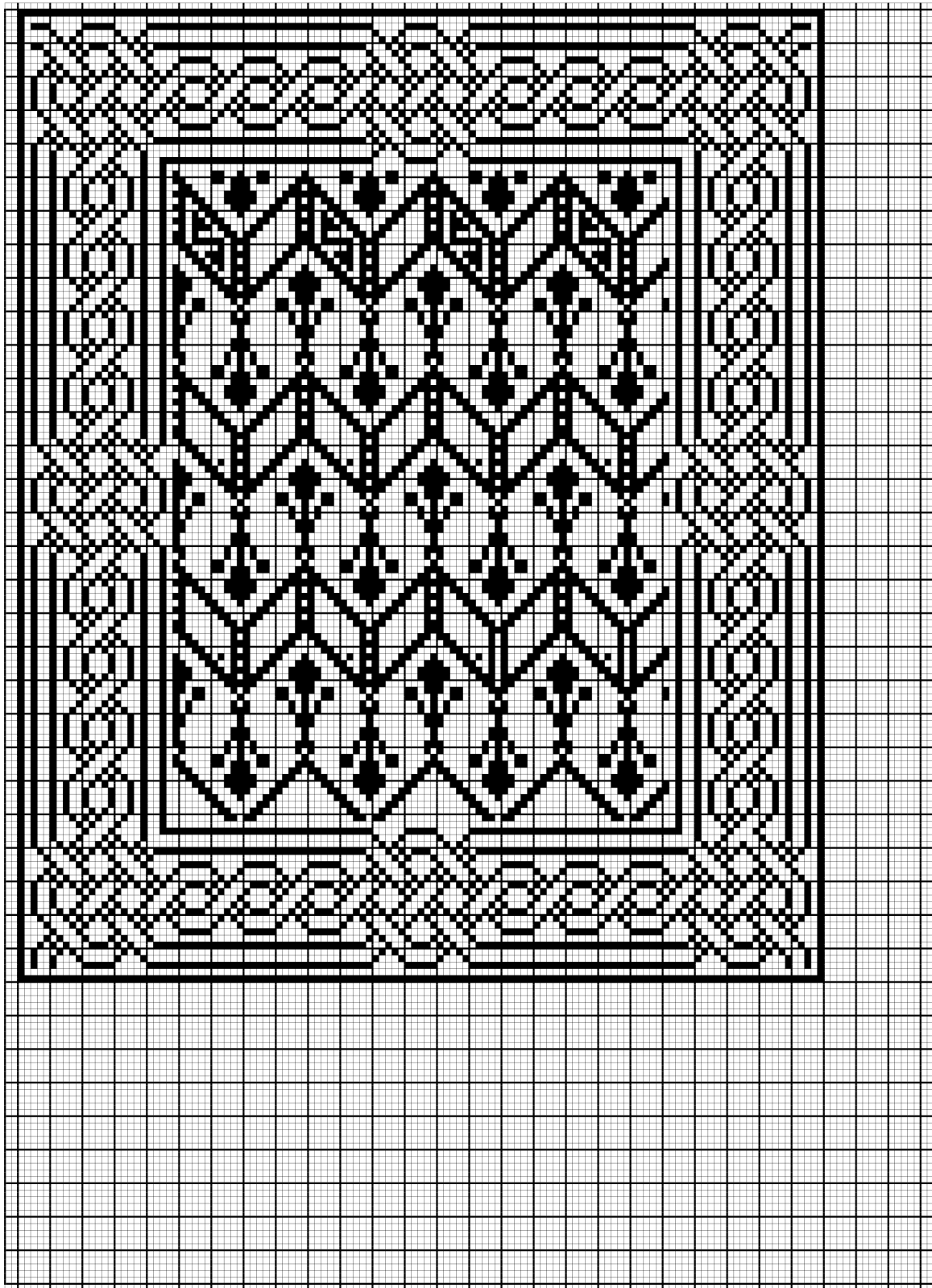


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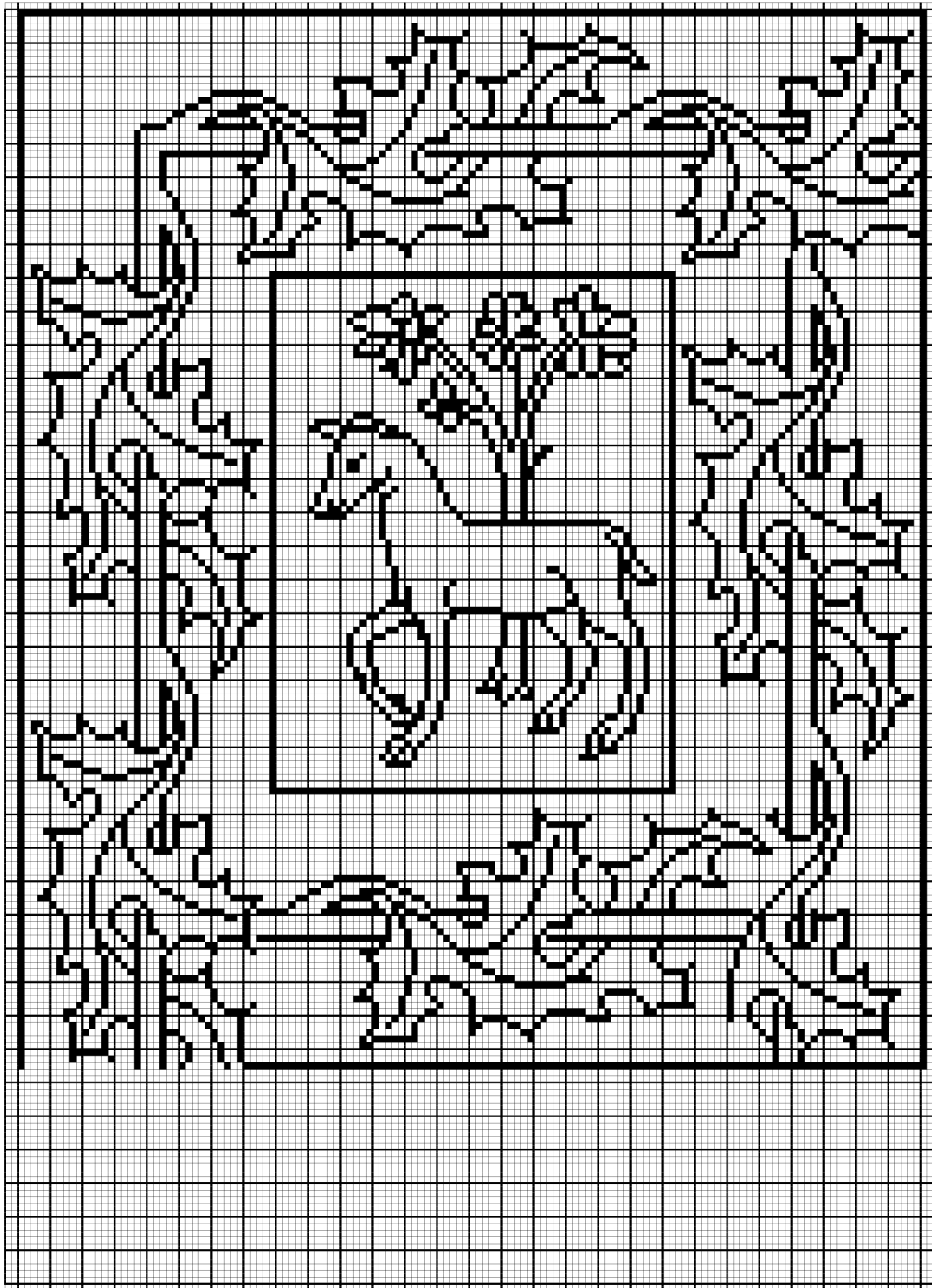


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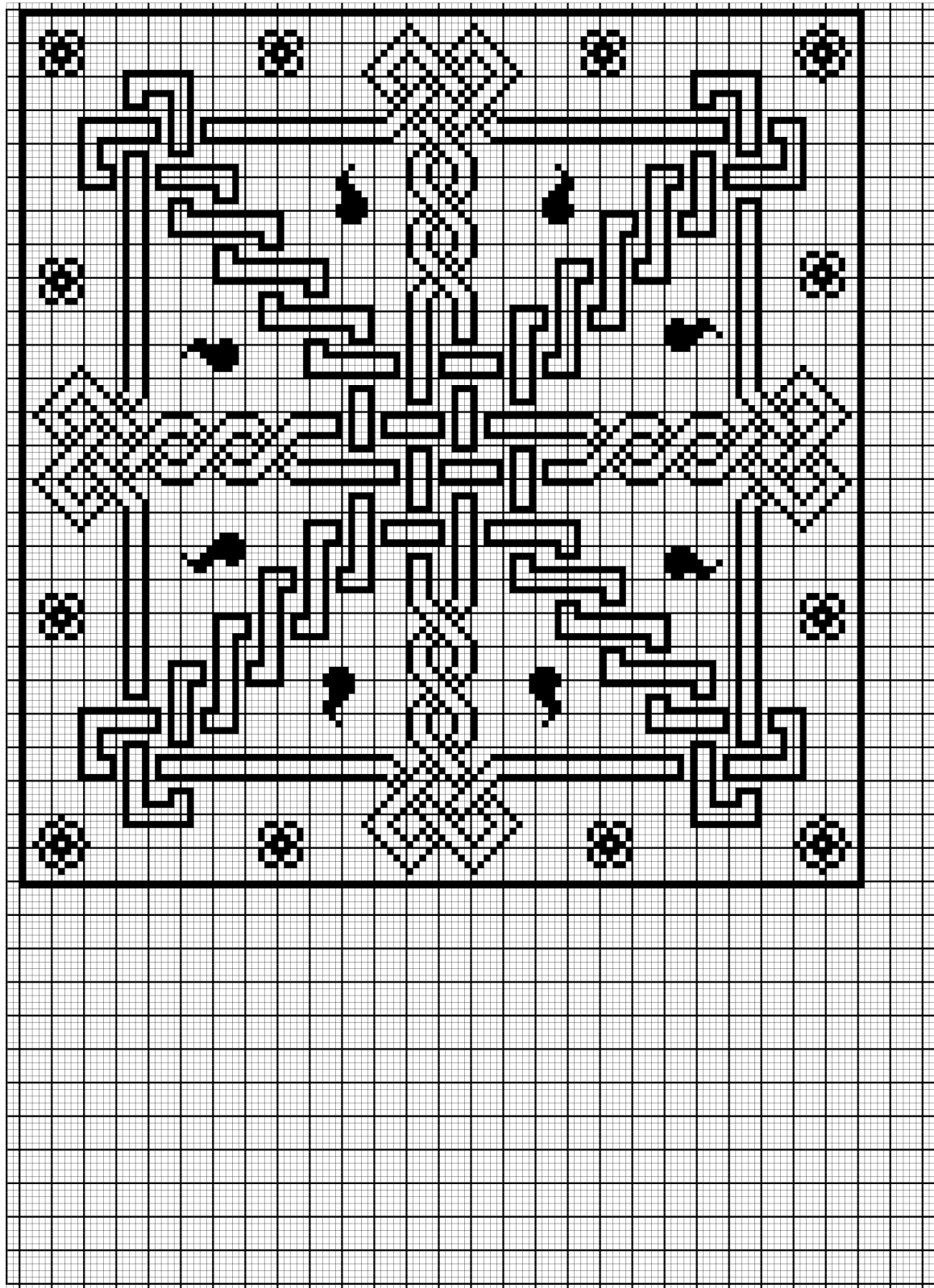


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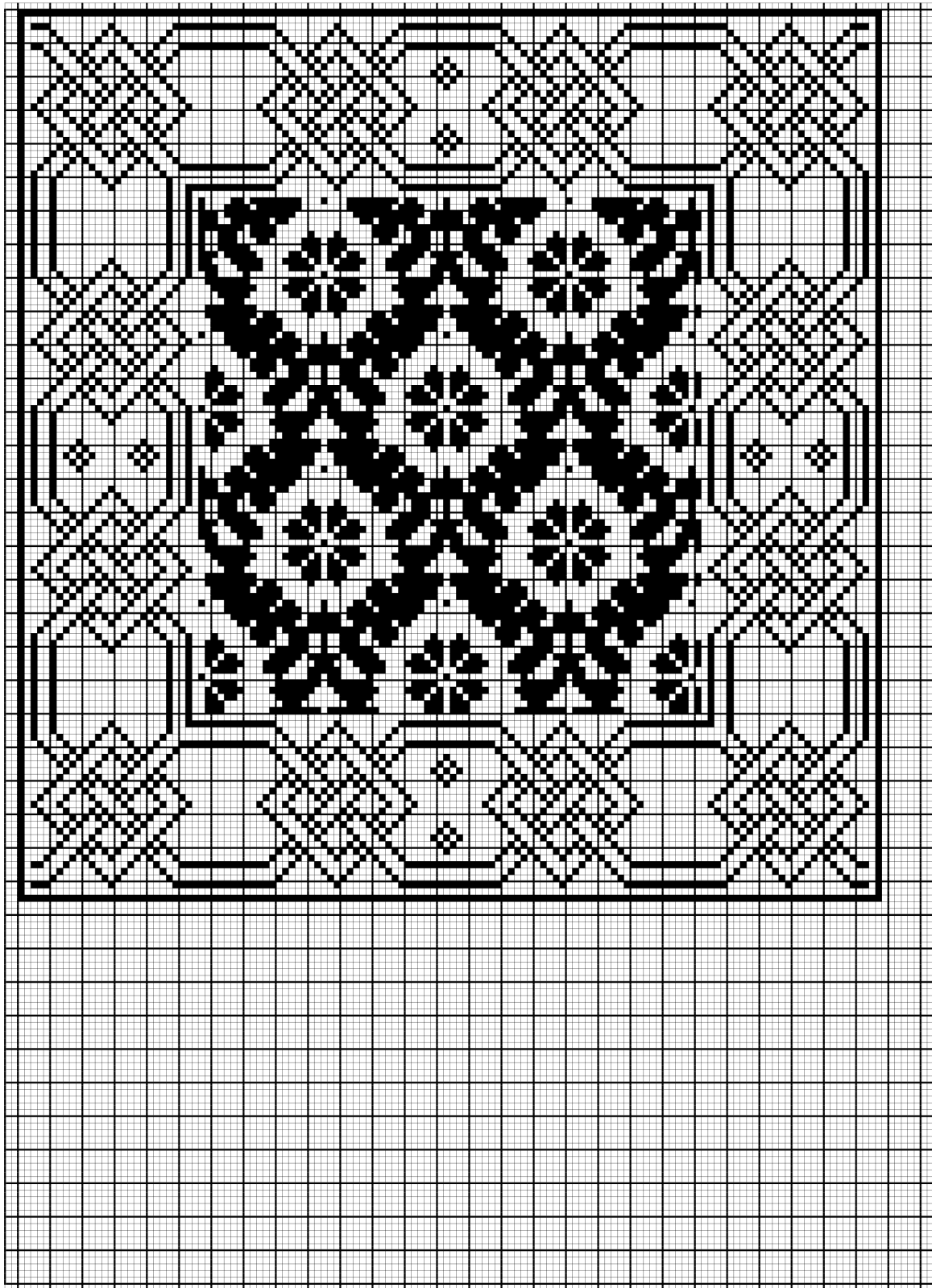


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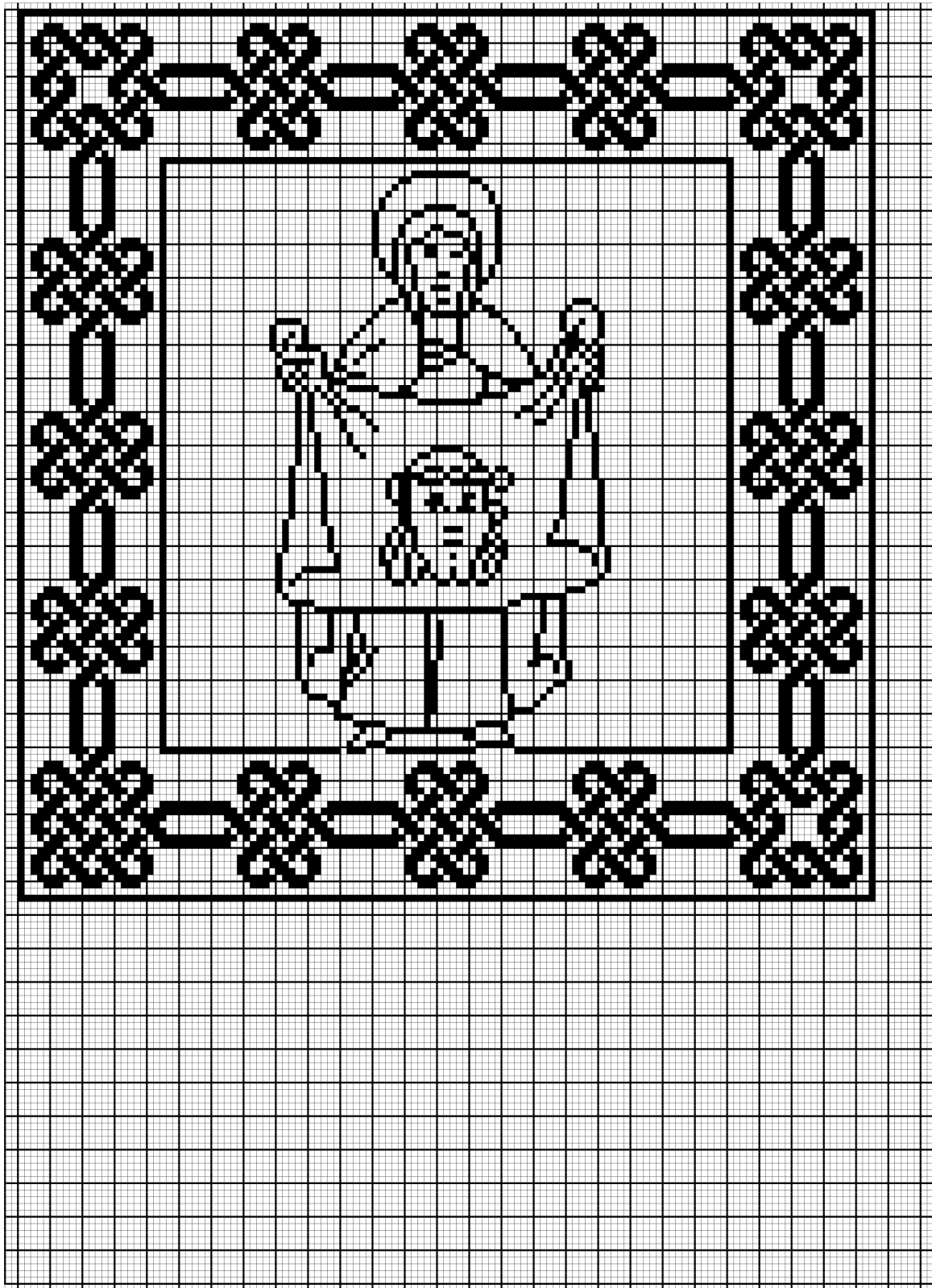


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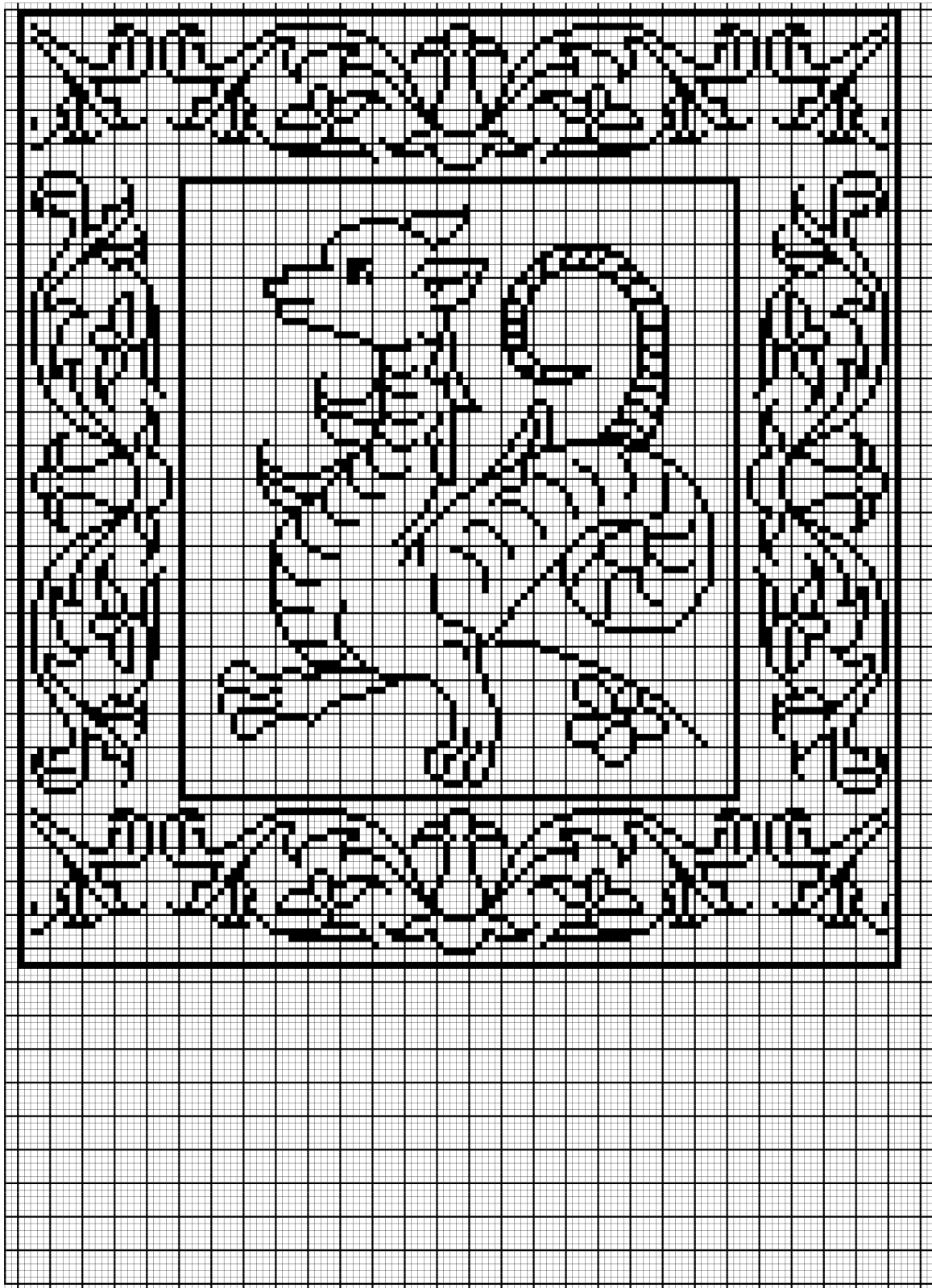




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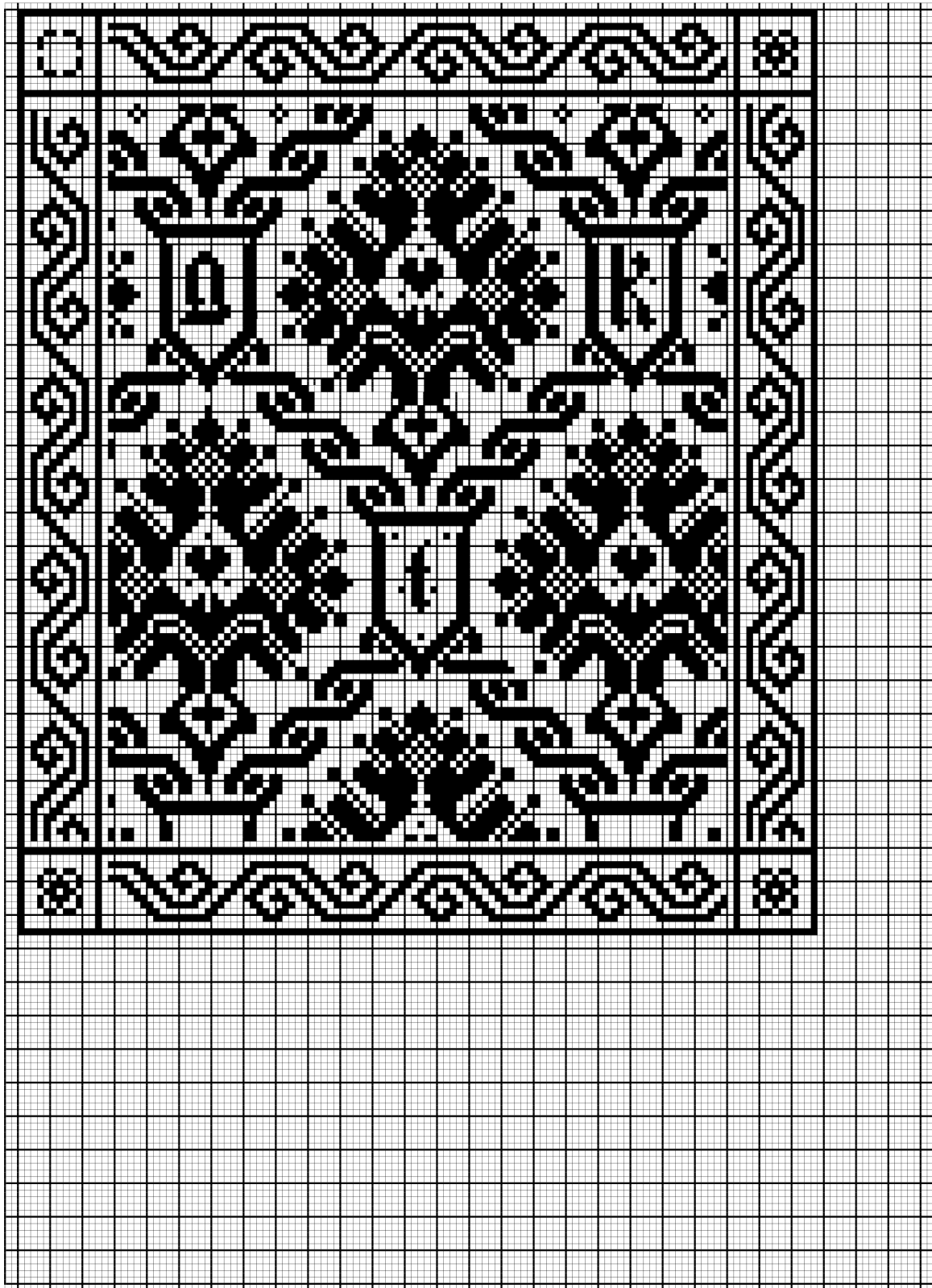


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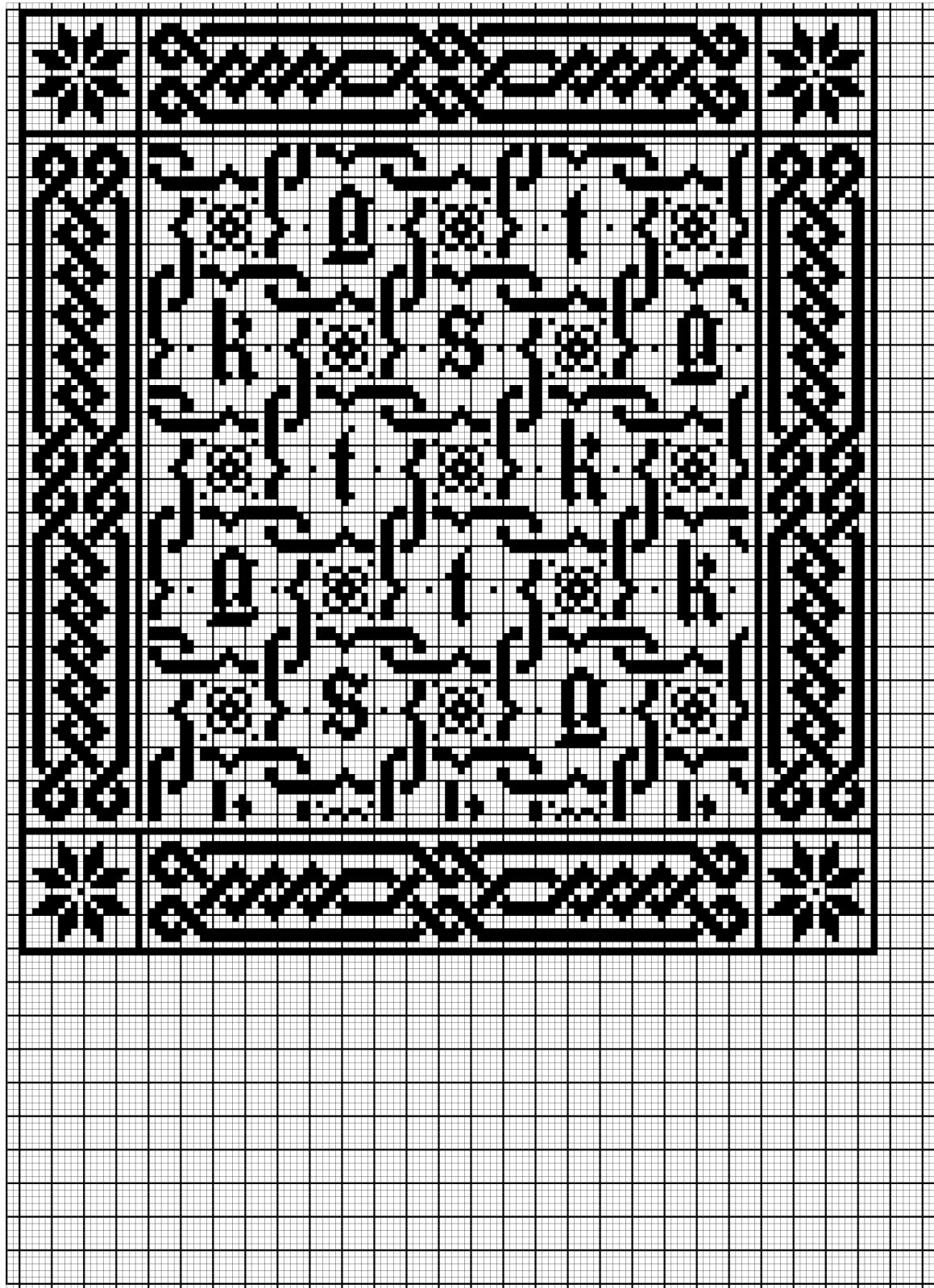




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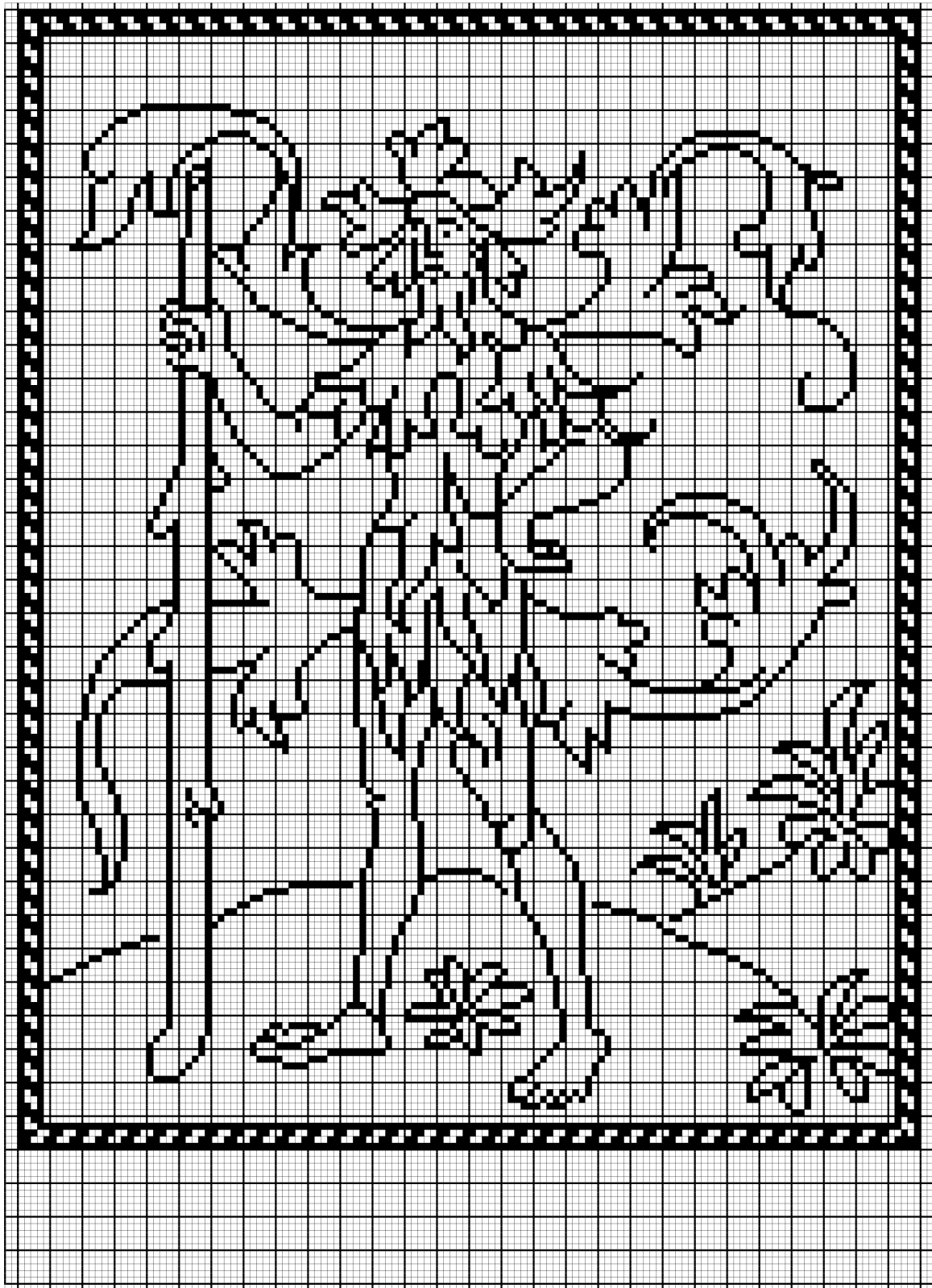


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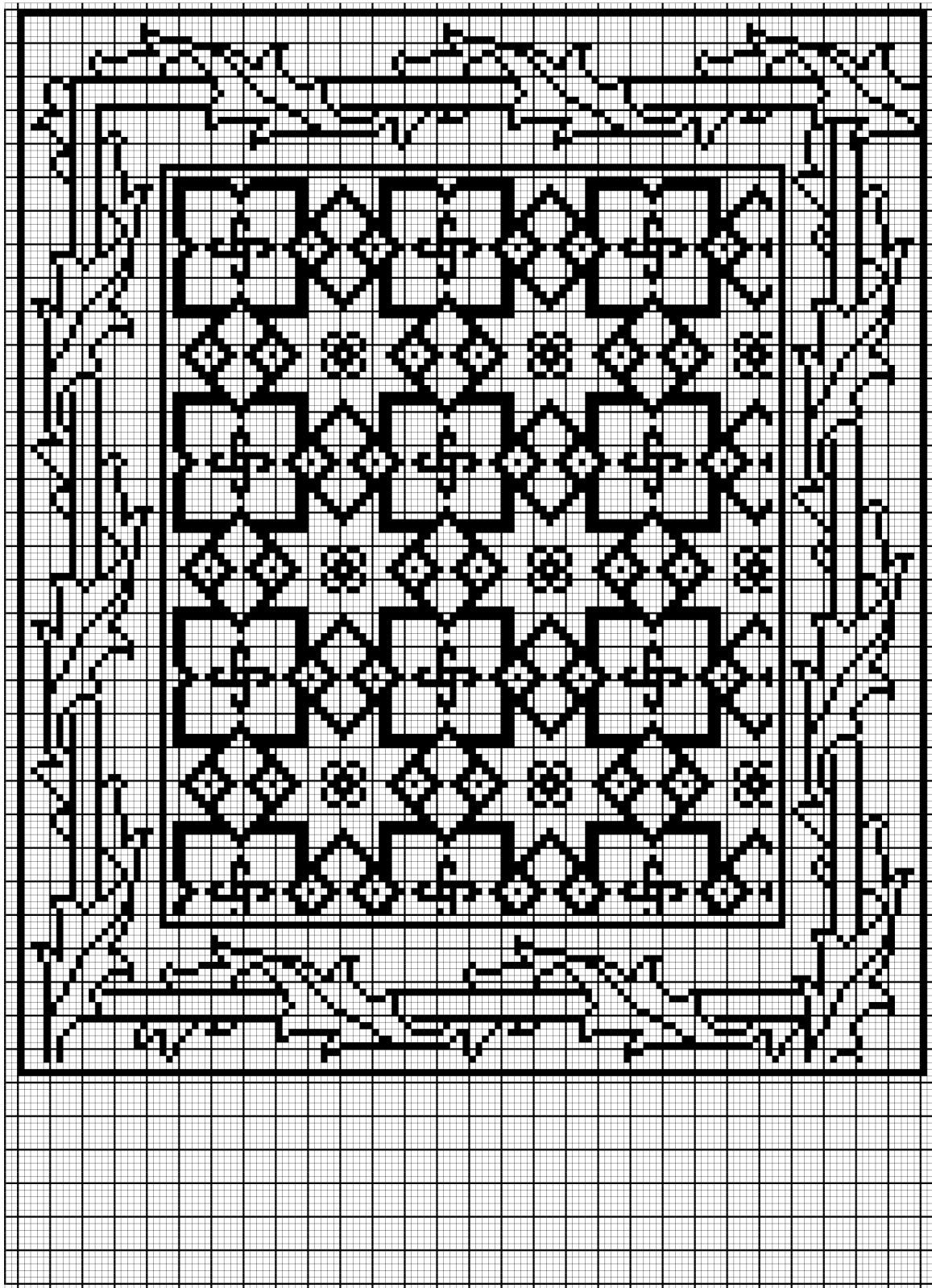


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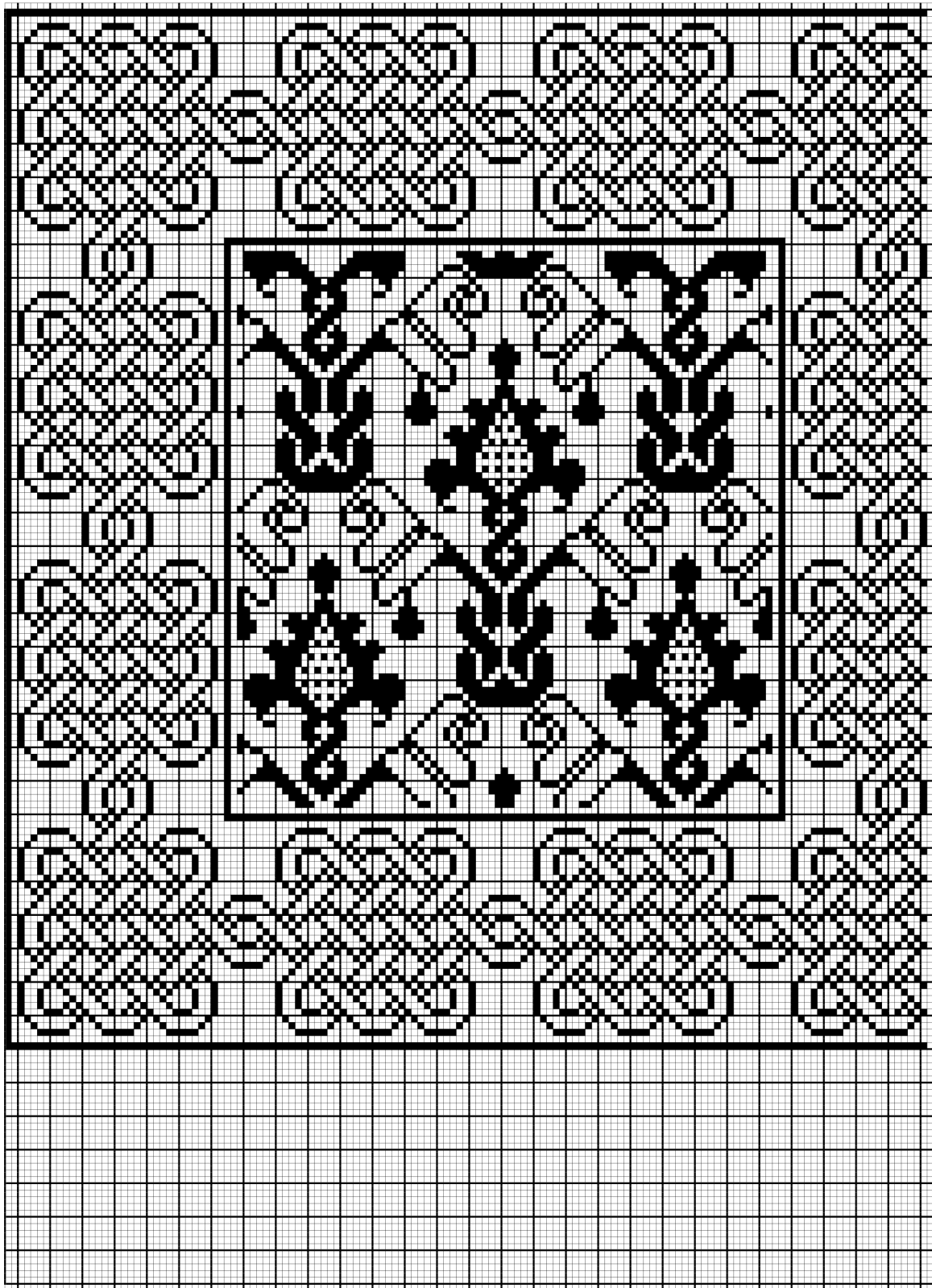


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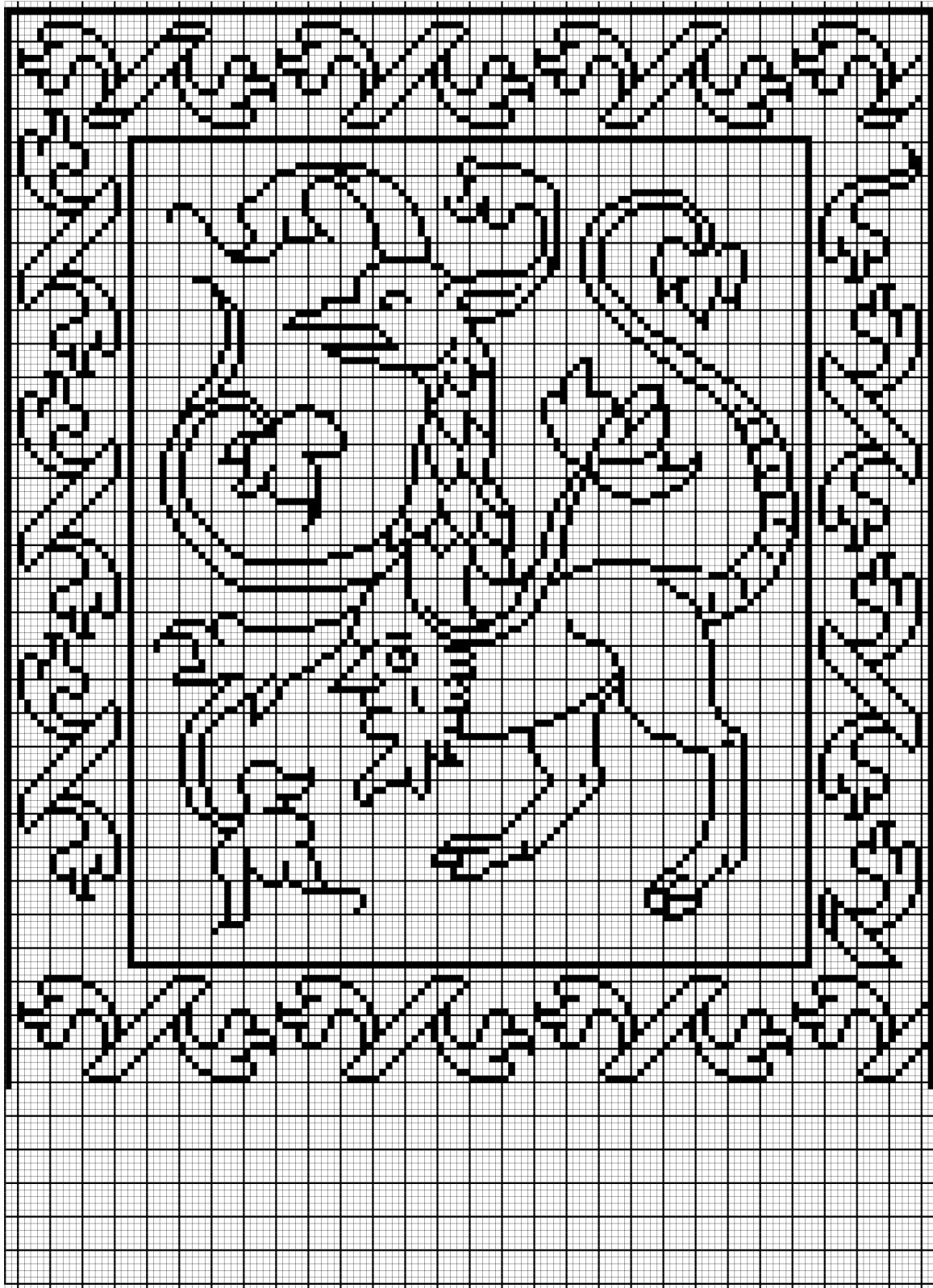


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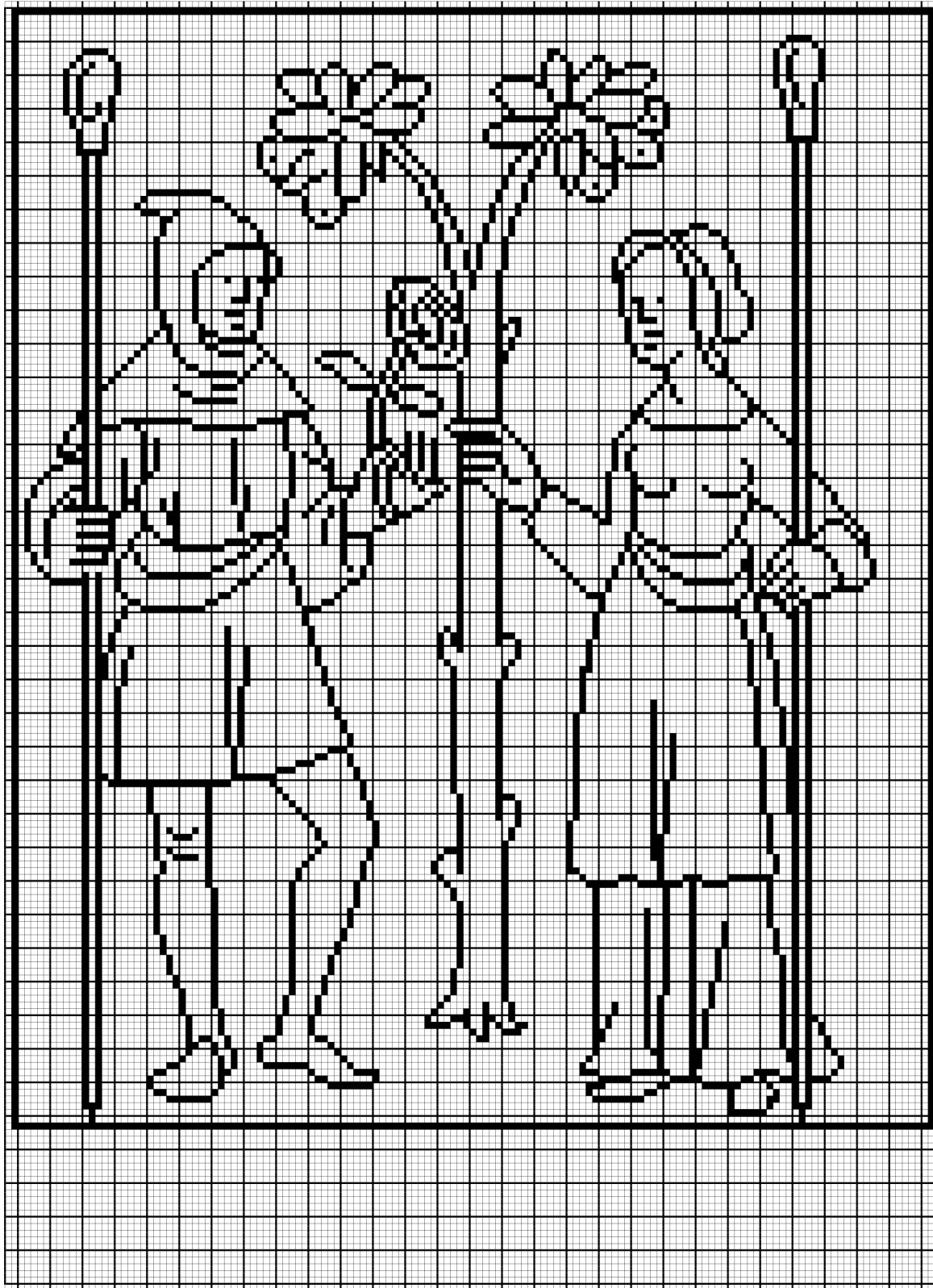


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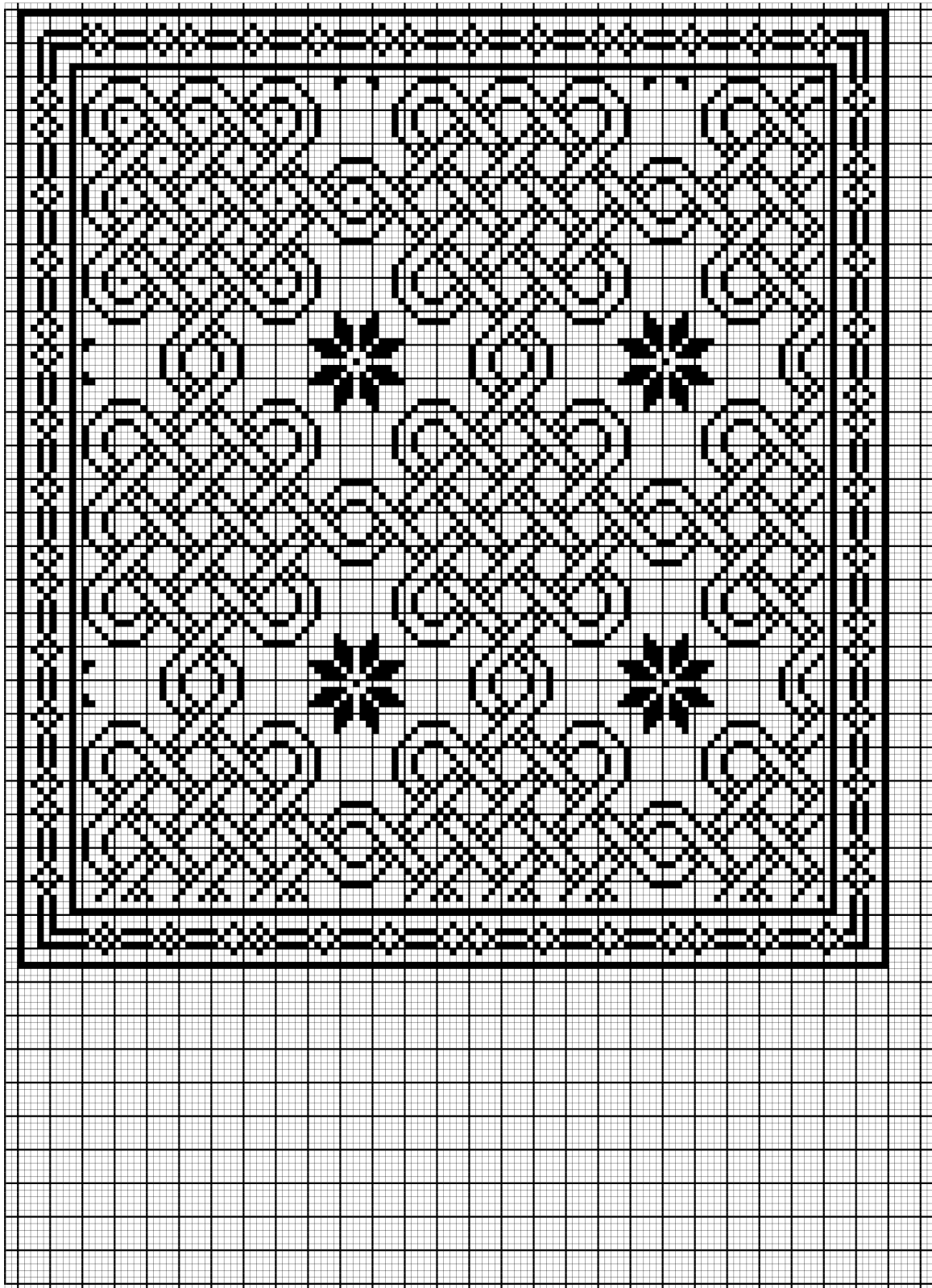




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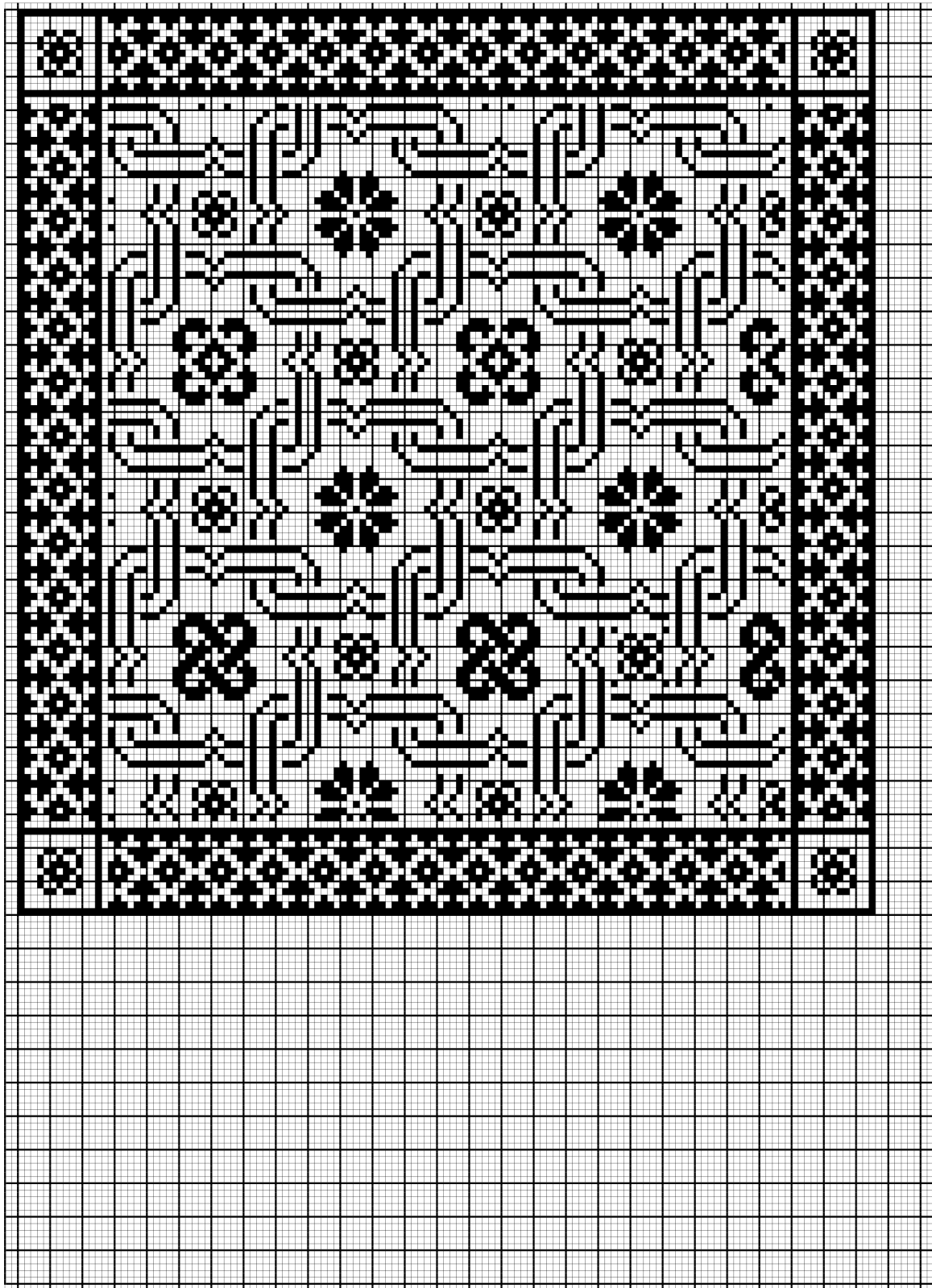


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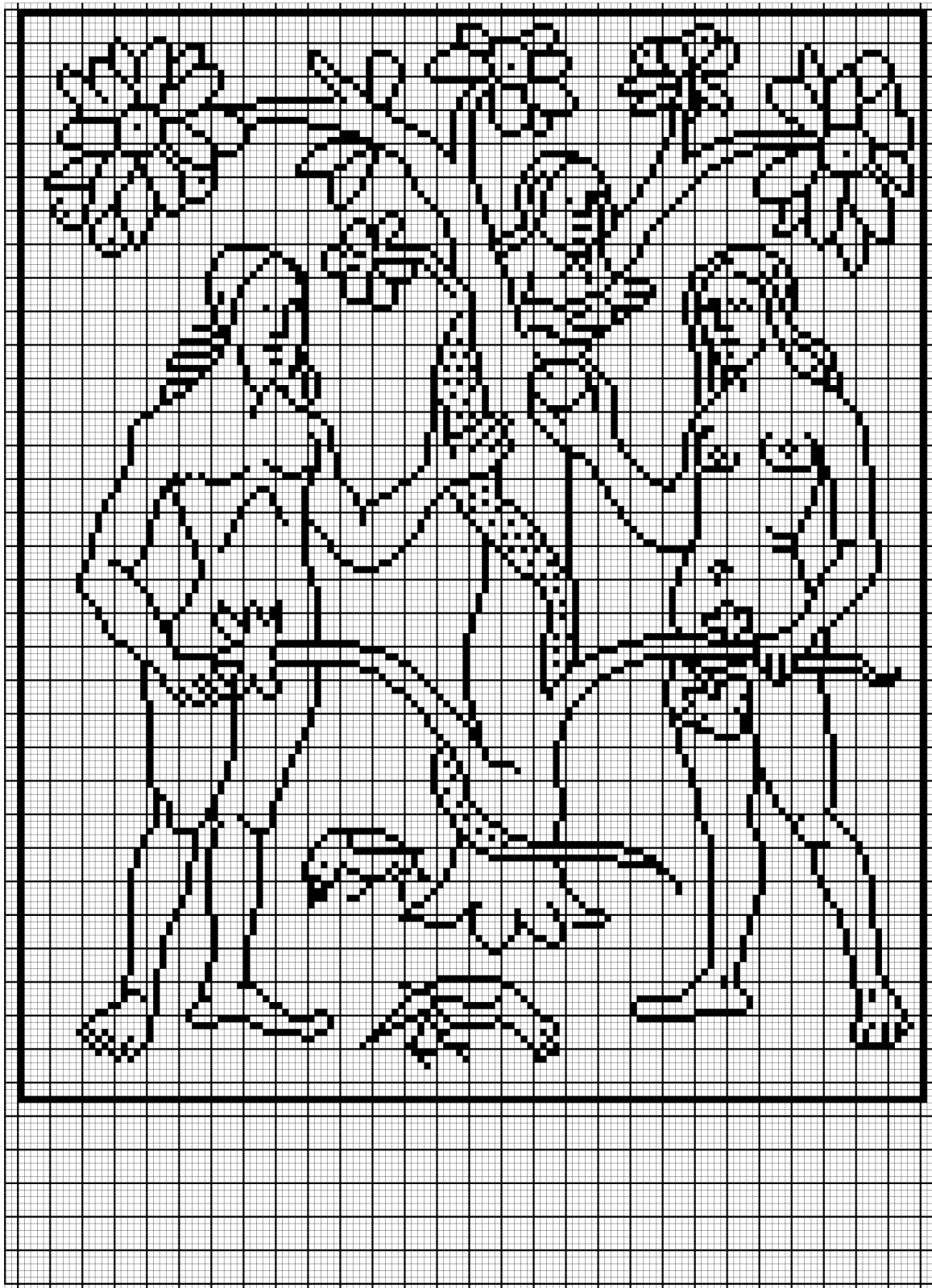




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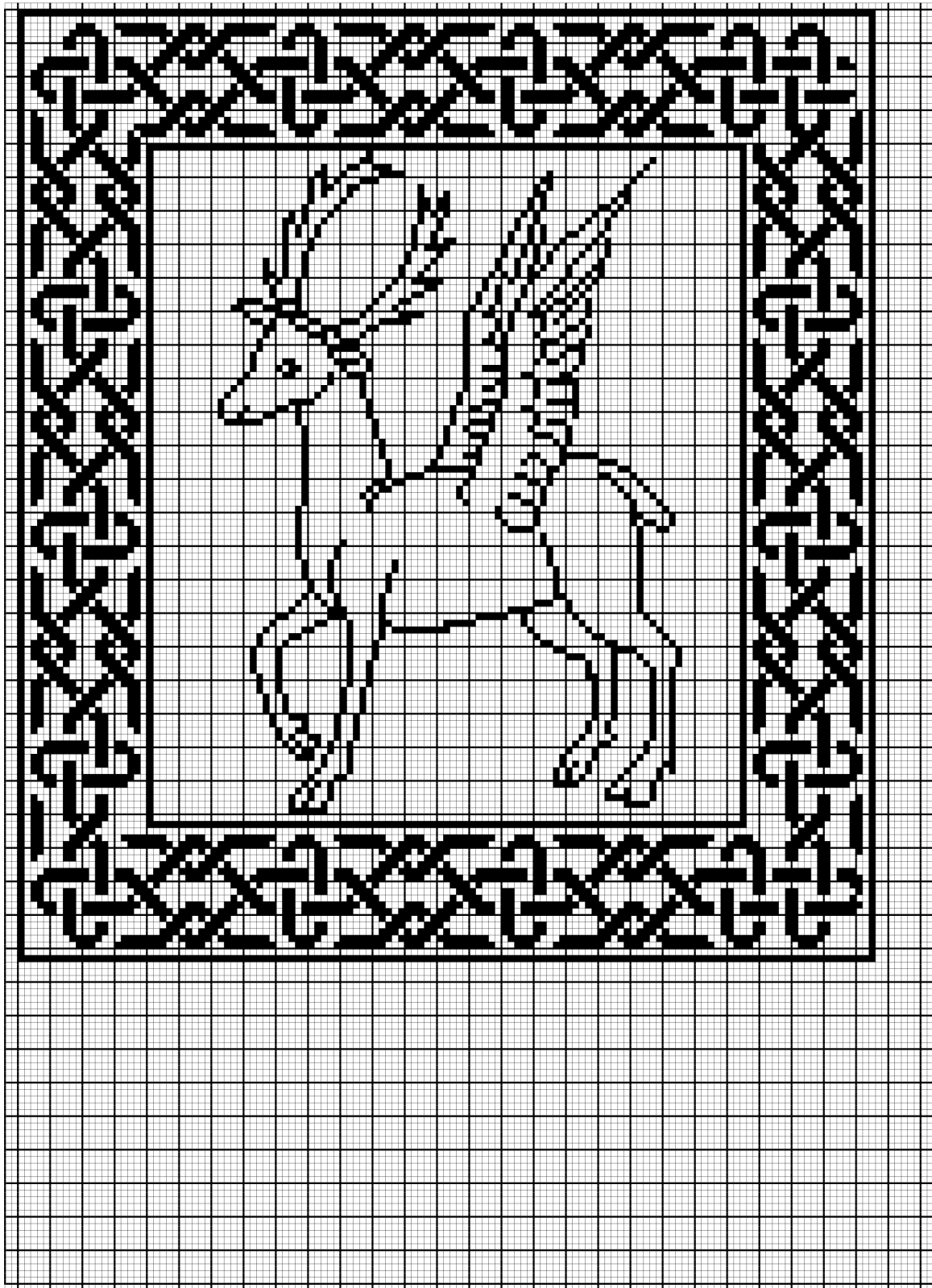


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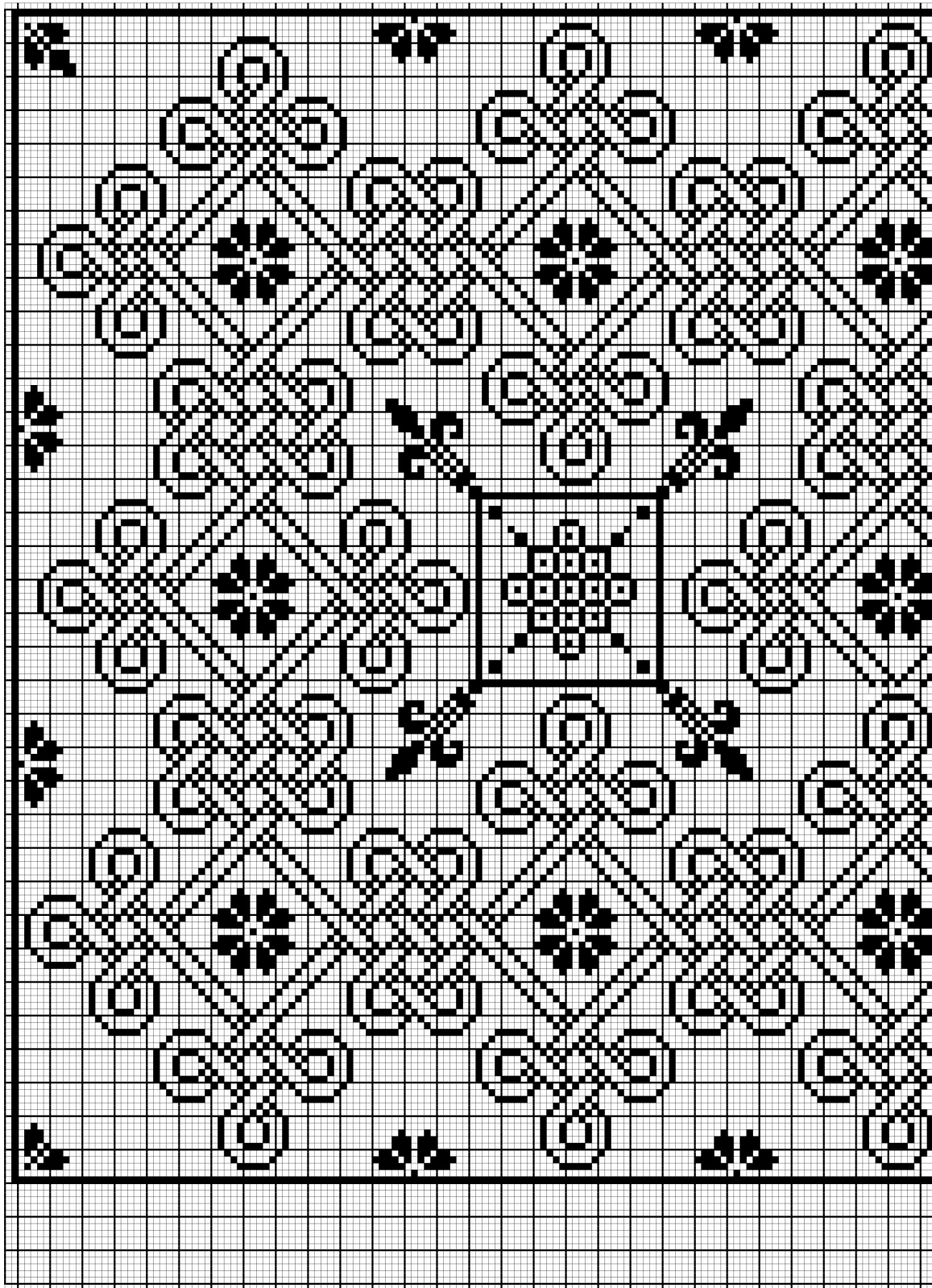
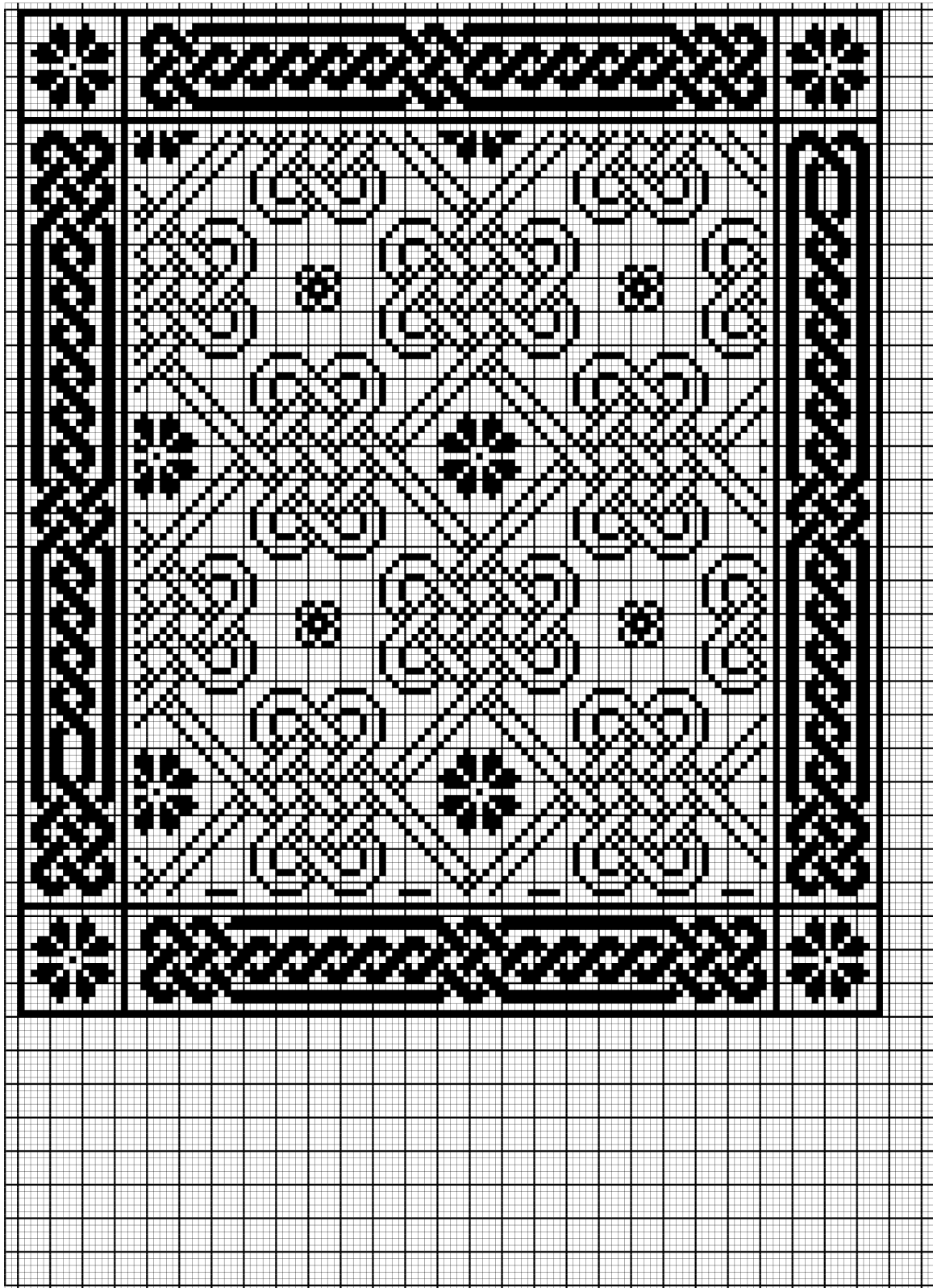
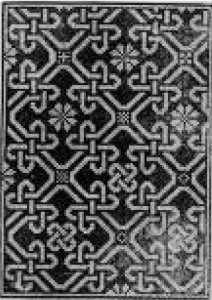
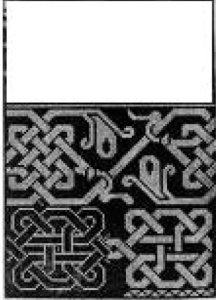




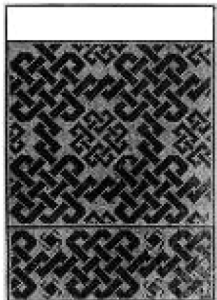



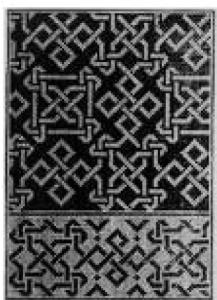



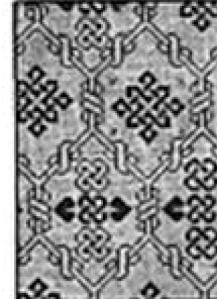


Plate 41





### Comparison Thumbnail Pages of Other Publications.

			
1531, 1532, 1546	1531, 1546	1531, 1532, 1546	1531, 1532, 1546
			
1531, 1532, 1546	1531, 1546	1531, 1532, 1546	1531, 1546
			
1531, 1532, 1546	1531, 1546	1531, 1532, 1546	1531, 1532, 1546
			
1531, 1546	1531, 1532, 1546	1532, 1546	





### Dominique da Sera's Embroidery Pattern Books

Sera1531CeLivreBNFbpt6k1073282k

*Ce livre est plaisant et utilegens qui besongnent de l'eguille... Corrige est nouvellement d'ung honneste homme par bon zelle son nom est Dominique Celle [Domenico da Sera]... mise ilson intelligence l'amander subtillement, taille il est totalement par Jehan Cost. Lyon: par Jean Coste. 1531.*

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k1073282k>

References: Baudrier, I, 105; Brunet, Supplément, I, 360; FB, 9603; Gueltingen, 3, 107, 1; Guilmar, p. 28; Lotz 69a; USTC 62822; Whiting, 241.

Bibliothèque nationale de France:

<http://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb35284997q>

Terrebasse (Fr), Château

Sera1532LibbrettoMET

*Libbretto nouellamete composto per maestro Domenico da Sera...lauorare di ogni sorte di punti. Lyon: Domenico da Sera. 1532.*

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/356952>

References: Adam, G 1213; FB 86229; Lotz 69b; Moreau, 2, 1793; USTC 130101

Libraries:

Berlin (De), Staatsbibliothek Preußischer Kulturbesitz --

Dallas, TX (USA), Southern Methodist Bridwell Library

Klosterneuburg (At), Stiftsbibliothek

Laon (Fr), Bibliothèque municipale Suzanne Martinet --

Nantes (Fr), Bibliothèque municipale

Paris (Fr), Bibliothèque nationale de France

Warszawa (Pl), Biblioteka Narodowa

Sera1536Opera

Sera, Domenico da. (1536). Opera nova composta. Vinegia, Stampato in per Mario Pagan ..., M.D. XXXXVI.

Bibliothèque nationale de France, BnF, Paris, 75013 France

Sera1543Opera

Sera, Dominique [= Domenico da Celle].

*Opera noua, doue si insegna tutte le nobili et leggiadre giovanette di lavorara di ogni sorte, di punti, cusire, reccamere. Vinet: M. Pagan et G. da Fontaneto di Monferrta. 1543*

**Libraries:**

National Art Library, Victoria and Albert Museum

Sera1546OperaHARVARD photo

*Opera noua composta per Domenico da Sera detto il Franciosino: Doue si insegnatutte le nobilileggiadre giouanette di lauorare di ogni sorte di puti: Cusire: Recamare, jar tutte qlle belle opere: Che si appartengono alle virtuose fanciullequarsi diletano di far co le sue mani alcuna gentilezzae anchora molto vtilegli tessadri che sogliono lavorare di seta.*

Vinegia: Matio Pagan sta in frezeria Gulielmo da Fontaneto di Monferrato. 1546.

Harvard University, Houghton Library:

<https://archive.org/details/Sera1546OperaHARVARDPrintPhotos>

Sera1546\_1879OperaNYPL

*Opera nova composta per Domenico da Sera detto il Franciosino: dove si insegnatutte le nobilileggiadre giovanette di lavorare di ogni sorte di pūti: cusire, recamare, far tutte q̃lle belle opere: che si appartengono alle virtuose fanciulle: e qua si diletano di far cō le sue mani alcuna gentilezza: eanchora molto vtilegli tessadri, che sogliono lauorare di seta..... Stampato in Venegia per Matio Pagan. Venegia / [Venezia]: Matio Pagan / [Fernando Ongania]. 1546 / 1879.*

Libraries:

British Library

The British Library, St. Pancras

University of Chicago

University of Chicago Library

The Field Museum Library

New York Public Library System  
Dartmouth Library  
National Art Library, Victoria and Albert  
Museum  
New York Public Library:  
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008693093>

Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN  
*Opera nova composta per Domenico da Sera detto il Franciosino: dove si insegnatutte le nobilileggiadre giovanette di lavorare di ogni sorte di pûti: cusire, recamare, far tutte q̃lle belle opere: che si appartengono alle virtuose fanciulle: e qua si diletano di far cō le sue mani alcuna gentilezza: eanchora molto vilegli tessadri, che sogliono lauorare di seta....* . (Flowers of the Needle, 4). Stampato in Venegia per Matio Pagan. Venegia / [Venezia]: Matio Pagan / [Fernando Ongania] / Flowers of the Needle. **1546 / 1879 / 2012**.  
<http://flowersoftheneedle.com/FoTN-Vol4.pdf>

Sera1563Fior  
[Sera, Domenico da]. *Fior di virtv libro novo da cvsire nelquale si contengono molti, diuersi sorti di fogliami del q[ua]le ogni ge[n]til, virtuosa madonna se ne potrà seruire, in far ponti afili, ponti crvtiati, ponti Intrezola, po[n]ti Instiora, tirar in Opera, Guchiar Tesser è molt'altri ponti comeloro piacerà*. S. l. [Venezia]: s. n. [Matteo Pagano]. **1563**.  
References: EDIT 16: 77251 ' USTC 764850  
Libraries:  
Paris (Fr), Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève  
Parma (It), Biblioteca Palatina  
Selected pages redrawn from Pagano's 1563 *Fior di Virtù* and 1568 *Trionfo di virtù* as Plates 31-50 in *Original-Stickmuster der Renaissance*  
Westsächsischen Hochschule Zwickau:  
<http://digital.slub-dresden.de/id448970600>

Sera1583Livre [USTC: no known surviving copy]  
*Le livre de lingerie*. Paris: Chez Hierosme de Marnef. **1583**

References: Brunet 5, 300; Cavellat 418; du Verdier pp. zlv, 266; FB 47756; USTC 75127

Sera1584LibroNovo  
*Libro novo, Chiamato Fior di Virtù. Qual insegna cusir ogni virtuosissima giovine che si dilettair aparare cioe Ponti Tagliati*. Venedig: Giacomo Gedinì. **1584**

Sera1584LivreBNFbtv1b8613384g  
*Le livre de lingerie, compose par maistre Dominique de Sera, italien, enseignant le noblegentil art de l'esguille, pour besongner en tous point: utileprofitable à toutes dames & damoyselles, pour passer le tempseuiter oysiveté. Nouvellement augmenté, enrichi de plusieurs excelents & divers patrons, tant du point coupé, raiseau, que passement, de l'invention de M. Jean Cousin, peintre à Paris: Chez Hierosme de Marnef, la Veufve de Guillaume Cavellat, au mont S. Hilaire l'enseigne du Pelican*. 1584  
References: Cavellat no. 429; FB 47757; USTC 21222  
Libraries: Paris (Fr), Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal  
Bibliothèque nationale de France:  
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8613384g>

Sera1584\_1883LivreCMApart1  
Sera1584\_1887LivreCMApart2  
*Le livre de lingerie: compose par Maistre Dominique De Sera, italien, enseignant le noble et gentil art de l'esguille, pour besongner en tous points, utile et profitable toutes Dames et Damoyselles, pour passer le temps, et euter oysiuete*. (Livres dentelles dessins d'ornements reproduits publiés par Amand-Durand sous la direction de Emmanuel Bocher, No. 4, No. 5). Paris : Hierosme de Marnef/ Emmanuel Bocher. **1584 / 1883**.  
Libraries:  
Bibliothek der Universität der Künste, Berlin,  
British Library, St. Pancras  
Cleveland Museum of Art



Columbia University in the City of New York  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max-  
Planck-Institut, Bibliothek  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Thomas J.  
Watson Library  
Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum,  
Landesmuseum Zürich

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Preußischer  
Kulturbesitz, Kunstbibliothek

**Columbia:**

<https://books.google.com/books?id=fQtFAAAAYAAJ>

Cleveland Museum of Art:

<https://archive.org/details/LivresDentelles4>

Cleveland Museum of Art:

<https://archive.org/details/LivresDentelles5>



### Publication Dates

1531 [1515]:  
Sera1531CeLivreBNFbpt6k1073282k  
1532 : Sera1532LibbrettoMET  
1536 : Sera1536Opera  
1543 : Sera1543Opera  
1546 : Sera1546OperaHARVARD\_photo ;  
Sera1546\_1879OperaNYPL ;  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN  
1563 : Sera1563Fior  
1583 : Sera1583Livre [USTC: No Known  
Surviving Copy]

1584 : Sera1584\_1883LivreCMApart1 ;  
Sera1584\_1887LivreCMApart2  
1584 : Sera1584LibroNovo  
1584 : Sera1584LivreBNFbptv1b8613384g  
1879 : Sera1546\_1879OperaNYPL ;  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN  
1883 : Sera1584\_1883LivreCMApart1 ;  
Sera1584\_1887LivreCMApart2  
2012 : Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN

### Named Persons

Amand-Durand, Charles :  
Sera1584\_1883LivreCMApart1 ;  
Sera1584\_1887LivreCMApart2  
Bocher, Emmanuel :  
Sera1584\_1883LivreCMApart1 ;  
Sera1584\_1887LivreCMApart2  
Celle, Dominique da : see Sera, Domenico da  
Coste, Jean :  
Sera1531CeLivreBNFbpt6k1073282k  
Cousin, Jean :  
Sera1584LivreBNFbptv1b8613384g  
Fontaneto di Monferrato, Gulielmo da :  
Sera1543Opera ;  
Sera1546OperaHARVARD\_print\_photo  
Gedini, Giacomo : Sera1584LibroNovo  
Goodwyn, Kathryn :  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN  
Marnef, Hierosme de : Sera1583Livre ;  
Sera1584LivreBNFbptv1b8613384g ;

Sera1584\_1883LivreCMApart1 ;  
Sera1584\_1887LivreCMApart2  
Ongania, Ferdinando :  
Sera1546\_1879OperaNYPL ;  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN  
Pagano, Matheo : Sera1543Opera ;  
Sera1546OperaHARVARD\_print\_photo ;  
Sera1546\_1879OperaNYPL ;  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN ;  
Sera1563Fior  
Sera, Domenico da [= Dominique da Celle]  
Sera1531CeLivreBNFbpt6k1073282k ;  
Sera1532LibbrettoMET ;  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN ;  
Sera1546OperaHARVARD\_photo  
Sera1563Fior  
Sera1583Livre  
Sera1584LivreBNFbptv1b8613384g  
Sera1543Opera  
Sera1584LibroNovo

### Reprint Series Titles

Flowers of the Needle :  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN  
Livres dentelles dessins d'ornements  
reproduits publiés, No. 4, No. 5 :

Sera1584\_1883LivreCMApart1 ;  
Sera1584\_1887LivreCMApart2  
Raccolta di Opere Antiche sui Disegni dei  
Merletti di Venezia, No. 8 :  
Sera1546\_1879\_2012OperaFOTN



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69a Celle. Ce livre est plaisant et uyilr. Lyon: Jehan Coste 1531.  
Berlin, Kunstbibl; Paris, Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

69b. Sera. Libbretto...dove di appara... Lyon. 1532.  
Catalogue de livres rares et precieux ... provenant da la bibliotheque de Monsioue, Ch. – L.  
Fiere... Paris: Albert Besombes 1933, Nr 176.

69c SERA- Le livre de lingerie. Paris: Jerosme dc Marnet 1383.

69d Sera. Le livre de lingerie. Paris: Hierosme de Marnef & la veuve de Guillaume Cavelatt  
1584.

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Faksimile – Ausgabe in: Livres aa dentelles et desines d’ornements reproduits et publies par  
Amand-Durand sous la direction de Emmanuel Bocher. Paris, 188z

69e Sera. Opera nova. Venedig: Matio Pagan e Guielmo da Fontaneto di Monferrato 1543  
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69f Sera. Opera nova. Venedig.: Matio Pegan e Gulielmo da fontaneto di Monferrato 1546  
Faksimile – Ausgabe: Venedig: F onganina 1879

69g [Sera] Fior di virtu. [Venedig] 1563  
Wein, Liechtensteinshe Bibl.

69h [SERA]. Libro novo, chiamoto fior di virtu. Vendig: Giacomo Gedinì 1584.

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Nach: Catalogue de livres et estampes relatifs aux beaux-arts... provenant de la bibliotheque de  
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365. Cousin, Jean. *Le livre de lingerie, compose par maistre Dominique de Sera, Italien, enseignant le noble et gen til art de l'esguille, pour besongner en tous points: vtile et profitable a toutes dames et damoyselles, pour passer le temps et euter oysivete. Nouuellement augmente et enrichi de plusieurs excellents & diuers patrons, tant de point coupe, raiseau, que passement de l'invention de M. lean Covsin*, Peintre a Paris. A Paris, chez Hierosme de Marnef & la veufue de Guillaume Cauellat, au mont S. Hilaire a, l'enseigne du Pelican, 1584, avec priuilege du Roy.

667. Gedinì, Giaeomo. *Libro novo, Chiamato Fior di Virtù. Qual insegna a cusir a ogni virtuosissima giovine che si diletta a imparare cioe Ponti Tagliati, ponti in stuora et ponti crosati et molti altri bellissimi lauori*. In Venetia appresso Giaeomo Gedinì in Frezzaria al segno delta Fede, MDLXXXIHT (1584).

1624. Sera, Domenico da. *Libbretto novellamete coposto p. maestro Domenico da Sera detto il Franciosino : dove si appara et insegna a tutte le nobili et leggiadre giovanette di lavorare di ogni sorte di punti : Cusire, reccamare, et ultimatamete far tutte qlle vaghe et belle opere : che si appartegono alle vertuose et lode voli fanciulle : et quai se diletta no di far con le sue mani alcuna gentilezza : et oltre dicio il detto libretto e molto utile a gli tessadri ; che sogliono lavorare di seta*. Stampato in Leone, MD et XXXII, del mese Aprile.

1625. Sera, D. de. *Le livre de Lingerie, compose par Maistre Dominique de Sera, Italien, enseignant le noble & gentil art de l'esguille, pour besong- ner en tous points: utile & profitable a toutes Dames & Damoyselles, pour passer le temps, & euter oysivete. Nouuellement augmente, & enrichi,*

*de plusieurs excellents & divers patrons, tant du point coupe, raiseau, que passement, de l'invention de M. Jean Cousin*, Peintre a Paris. A Paris. Chez Hierosme de Marnef, & la veufve de Guillaume Cauellat, au mont S. Hilaire a l'enseigne du Pelican. 1584.

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1627. Sera, D. de. *Opera nova, etc.* 1543. Ongania Reproduction of No. 1626.

1628. Sera, Domenico da. *Fede Opera Noua composta per Domenica da Sera, detto il Franciosino : dove si insegna a tutte le nobili et leggiadre gio- uanette di lauorare di ogni sorte di punti : Cusire, Recamare, et far tutte qlle belle opere, che si appartengono alle virtuose fanciulle: e qual si di- lettano di far co le sue main alcuna gentilezza, et canchora, molto vtile a gli tessadri che fogliono lauorara di seta*, stampato in Venegia per Matio Pagan, sta in Fregeria e Oulielmo da Fontaneto di Monferrato MDXXXXVI.

1629. Sera, Domenico, da. *Opera noua composta per Domenico da Sera detto il Franciosino : doue si insegna a tutte le nobili & leggiadre giuanette di lauorare di ogni sorte di puti: Cusire: Recamare, & jar tutte qlle belle opere : che si appartengono alle virtuose fanciulle e quarsi dilettnano di far co le sue mani alcuna gentilezza & e anchora molto vtile a gli tessadri che sogliono lavorare di seta*. Stampato in Vinegia per Matio Pagan sta in frezeria e Gulielmo da Fontaneto di Monferrato. M.D.XXXXVI. Reprinted by Ongania in 1879.





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